



IN THE LAND OF  
Kashmir, Ladakh & Gilgit

WITH

THEIR HISTORY, PLACES OF INTEREST, ROUTES,  
WALKS, AND EXHAUSTIVE INFORMATION  
FOR THE GUIDANCE OF VISITORS TO  
KASHMIR, LADAKH, GILGIT,  
ASTOR, SKARDU,  
ETC

BY

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Celestial Charms," Etc.

WITH A FOREWORD

BY

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PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED &  
WITH FIVE MAPS

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## FOREWORD.

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**T**HIS Guide to Kashmir written by Mr. Arora should be a great help to those visiting Kashmir, especially to those taking the longer journeys up the numerous valleys, and to the land of the Lamas.

Visitors before engaging House-boats or placing orders with merchants in the city should go to the Office of the Visitors Bureau to seek their advice and look at "the black list" and so save themselves from unnecessary loss

In every country there are sharks and crooks and Kashmir is no exception to other countries in this matter

C E TYNDALE-BISCOE

*Srinagar,*

*29th June 1939.*



## PREFACE.

There are few so interesting, full of details and illustrative travel books on "Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Skardu, Astor etc" as this. The numerous guide books either lack in details, necessary hints, illustrations and maps or are too bulky and costly. In this book all the important routes, places of interest along with their history and routes, guide maps and all the relevant, useful and latest information that may be of any use to visitors to that country have been dealt with in a descriptive—yet concise form. This book also contains chapters, full of necessary information, on Arts and Crafts, Fishing, Hunting, Religious buildings, Fruits and Vegetables.

The bibliography at the end of the book will prove the fact that materials for the book have been collected from numerous valuable sources and I am confident that they will stand the test of critical observers.

The author is not wholly and solely interested in India alone but has got an equal infatuation for other prominent countries of the world in their political, economical and commercial aspects. All negotiations are welcomed.

Travellers are requested that they will render a great service to the tourists' cause if they will send suggestions and details of any interesting new or altered routes.

R C ARORA.

*Calcutta.*

*2nd May 1940.*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Br—Bridge	FRH—Forest rest house	N—Nala, nullah
C—Carvan Serai	G—Grass, grazing	PO—Post office
DB—Dak Bungalow	M—Monastery	RH—Rest house
Dispy—Dispensary	M—mile	S—Supplies
E—Encamping ground	MB—Military bungalow	T—Transport
F—Fuel		TO—Telegraph office
		*—Scanty





U.L.P.H

LOTUS BLOOM IN DAL

SRINAGAR

## KASHMIR

*"Who has not heard of the Vale of Cashmere;  
With its roses the brightest that earth ever gave,  
Its temples, and grottos, and mountains as clear,  
As the love lighted eyes that hang over their wave"*

Moore

**K**ASHMIR is known as a land of fabled beauty and eternal romance, blessed by nature with beautiful scenery, wondrous fertility and glorious climate and described as "an emerald set in pearls", "that opens sublime the Vale of Bliss to the world" and defined by eminent writers as "one of the finest countries upon which the sun shines," "the Sub Alpine region of Asia's Italy," "a dream of loveliness," "unsurpassed for its scenery," "renowned for its magnificent climate and delightful fruits" Verily Kashmir is the terrestrial Paradise of the Indies—rather the earthly Elysium, a fairyland, where every curve presents a grand picture, and every horizon a new scene, each leaf a distinct lesson and each flower a new book.

This fairyland has been immortalized by Eastern and Western poets as one of unparalleled loveliness



and charm. Thus have the poets of all nations described Kashmir as a garden land of picturesque sceneries, lovely landscapes, unrivalled vistas, majestic forests green pastures, shimmering waters of vast, silent and transparent lakes and rivers, perennial snows, mighty chains of snow clad mountains and rumbling cataracts and roaring waterfalls

"Know'st thou the Land where towering cedars rise,  
In graceful majesty to cloudless skies,  
Where whiter peaks than marble rise around  
And icy plough shares pierce the flower clad ground?  
Know'st thou the cliffs above Sonmarg gorges dread  
Where the great yaks with trembling footsteps tread,  
Where keenest winds from icy summits blow  
And chill the deserts of eternal snow?  
Know'st thou it well? Oh, let us once more there,  
Scale cliffs, and granite avalanches dare"

A Nete

Kashmir is a charming beauty spot and the Switzerland of India and is inviting to all classes of people. There are fertile valleys with abundant water and natural products, whether fruits or grains, there are innumerable kinds of game in the jungles and along the mountain sides, there are ample opportunities for the fisherman to use his rod in lakes, streams and rivers. There is grand scenery for the artist, high mountain summits for the climbers, stately relics for the archaeologist, many geological problems awaiting their investigation for the geologists; countless species of luxuriant vegetation for the botanists, excellent health resorts for invalids and solitary seclusion and divine associations for a recluse.

Kashmir is above all and beyond comparison an ideal land for holiday makers. It is the one country in the world where no hideous boards saying 'Private





Road', 'Tresspassers will be prosecuted' come to bar the wayfarer's track or mar his pleasures. Here a visitor has an utterly free and unfettered mode of existence. 'In the Land of Lalla Rookh,' Mr Wadia further writes, "I have been a close observer of the lotus all over the world but even in Egypt, the land of the lotus, they never bloomed to such perfection as they did in Kashmir. In other parts of the world, the flower is apt to look stiff and is deeply hued, but the lotus bloom of the Dhal (Dal lake, Kashmir) looked the very emblem of delicacy and softness both in tint and feel. Indeed, so delicate was its pink and with such exquisite art was the white of the lower half of the petals made to blend with the pink of the upper, that one felt one would have to dip one's brush in the roseate hues of the dawn to paint it, and unwind the musty rolls of ancient Buddhistic and Brahmanical sacred writings to understand its deep mysteriousness."

The Nanga Parbat of Kashmir is known all over the world from the expedition point of view. Sir Martin Conway, the renowned Alpinist on seeing it has recorded that 'scales of the Alps fell from his eyes.' A poet has thus sung,

King amidst kingly mountains,  
 Monarch o'er snowy heights,  
 Girdled with glacial fountains,  
 Fenced by avalanche might,  
 Battlements towering skywards,  
 Pinnacles glistening bright,  
 Who shall dispute, *Dyamir*  
 The Crown that's thine by right?

C Lambert while contrasting the East and West, writes, "The fields of corn, the fruit blossoms and the soft air seemed to tell us we were in England or France. The rice terraces, the birds of glorious plumage reminded us we were in India, while above us were the pine forests of Switzerland or Norway. The whole valley was green with growing corn and gay with fruit blossom—a beautiful picture set in the frame of the snow-clad Himalayas."

"Such then is Kashmir, a country where the cheap tripper does not exist nor any picturesque loafers to yodel us at every corner as in parts of the Alps, asking a franc for the hideous noise they have made, where even now a small income goes a long way, where in short every prospect pleases and only man is vile." These are the remarks of Mr J C Macdonell.

Such iridescent turquoise blue waters (as that of Sheshnag) I had seen but twice before—in the Blue Grotto at Naples and in lovely Lake Louise up in the far-off Canadian Rockies. But what added to the beauty of Sheshnag were the fantastically shaped snow islands that floated merrily over the lake and cast such exquisite reflections in its translucent waters. Sheshnag looked like an enchanted lake, so still were its waters and such silence pervaded its glistening glaciers. These are Mr Wadia's observations recorded in "In the Land of Lalla Rookh."

No part of India—and it may rightly be said of all Asia—is invested with such a romantic interest for the Europeans as Kashmir. They see this land





through the glamour of 'Lala Rookh' For the exquisite beauty of her scenery, the glorious colouring and profusion of flowers, the buoyancy of the atmosphere and the general joviality of her people and surroundings, Kashmir is regarded as unique in the East

Kashmir is a good hunting ground for it abounds with many varieties of wild life An enormous range of big game, for instance, bears, leopards, ibex, Himalayan Chamois etc, constitute a tremendous sport for hunters and the presence of a good number of lakes and rivers provide good sport for anglers Besides, polo, golf, tennis and cricket are widely played at Srinagar and Gulmarg

Kashmir is a semi-independent state under His Highness the Maharaja who is vested with sovereign powers within the state His Highness the Maharaja is assisted by Ministers of State The Police, Medical, Forest and Military departments are in charge of British officials under the *Darbar* Post and Telegraph Superintendents are officials of the Imperial Government of India The Imperial Service Troops are under the charge of a British Chief of Staff There is always a British Resident in touch with the *Darbar* who resides at Gulmarg or Srinagar in summer and at Jammu or Sialkot in winter There is an Asst Resident residing at Leh who is also a Joint Commissioner of Ladakh

According to the recent census, there are a little more than 36 lakhs of people in the State The Mohammedans make up three-fourth being 76% but they constitute 95% in the Vale of Kashmir and









But where they failed was in the matter of the heart and soul. A concrete instance will perhaps make my meaning clear. The beauty of Kashmiri women is proverbial and has attracted the notice of all travellers from the remotest periods. The earliest of these, Marco Polo and Francois Bernier, gallantly pay their homage to it, and the latest women writers, Marion Doughty and the Hon Mrs Bruce make graceful references to it. And the compliments made by men writers, though naturally a bit strained, are not any the less deserved on that account. For though "the female form divine" encountered there does not by any means seem divine or remarkable, nor does the face of a Kashmiri possess beauty that has even a tinge of intellectuality about it or is of a type that in any sense "rare and of earth unseen," still as far as outward appearance goes the woman's face there could certainly be said to possess features of remarkable delicacy and symmetry, and the lines of her figure at times flow in faultless curve and statuesque precision. On many an occasion I have sat enchanted in my *Shikara* raptly gazing at a face as clear cut as in ancient cameo or at a figure as full and supple as in the statue of a Greek goddess, and thought how natural it was "for all and every individual of the court of the Great Mogul to select wives from them" as Bernier said they did. But the faultless faces and precise lines of these Kashmiri women left me as cold and as unaffected as the Cameos and statues after which they took. They came, it is true, near enough to my heart but never once entered it,

they captivated my aesthetic sense, but never subdued my soul."

Kashmir is bounded on the North by the Karakoram Range, on the East by Tibet, on the South by the Punjab and on the West by the Punjab and Hazara country. The area of the whole State is nearly 85,000 square miles and it is about 350 miles in its greatest length from east to west and about 270 miles in breadth. It extends from latitude  $32^{\circ} 17'$  to  $36^{\circ} 58'$  and from longitude  $73^{\circ} 26'$  to  $80^{\circ} 3'$ . Politically, His Highness's State constitutes four provinces—Ladakh in the East, Gilgit and Baltistan in the North, Kashmir in the West and Jammu in the South. Of them Kashmir and Jammu are well known.

Kashmir is a land of snow capped mountains, fertile valleys and blooming gardens and orchards. According to the physical configuration it is divided into two nearly equal parts by the Indus and Gilgit valleys which meet and form a straight line, cutting across the country from South east to North-west. All to the North of this line makes up Trans-Himalayan Kashmir and the part to the South is Himalayan Kashmir.

Trans Himalayan Kashmir is a mass of mountains, and except in the valley of the Shyok, it is all over 12,000 feet above sea level. These mountains run from North-west to South-east in three roughly parallel ranges—first the Kailash or Gangri Range, then the Karakorams, and, forming the Northern boundary, the Hindukush and the Southern Slope of the Kwen Luns.



G D B.

A LANDSCAPE, LIDDAR VALLEY

KASHMIR



"In no country in the world are there such magnificent masses of snow-covered mountains as represented here, the giants of Alps would here look like dwarfs," writes Morrison. The Karokoram Pass leading into Eastern Turkestan, is over 18,000 ft high; and the loftiest peak of this range, Mount Godwin Austen (named after the man who first measured it) ranks in height next to Mount Everest. Trans-Himalayan Kashmir possesses innumerable glaciers—the *Glacier of Ballora* in Baltistan is regarded as one of the best glaciers in the world.

Himalayan Kashmir is also filled with snow-covered mountains and ice-fields. Just South of the Indus is the inner Himalayan Range, ending in Nanga Parbat (26 000 ft). Farther South is the outer Himalayan Range, here called Pır Panjal, and between these two ranges lies the beautiful *Vale of Kashmir*, watered by the River Jhelum, on which stands Srinagar, the Capital of the State of Kashmir and Jammu.

In fact, the abiding charms of Kashmir are more felt than perceived. Even pen or pictures cannot give a correct idea of Kashmir which make her the inspiration of poets and artists and bring in her train lovers of nature and beauty from the uttermost ends of the earth.

Oh ! best of delights as it ev'ry where is

To be near a lovely *one*,—what a rapture is his who in  
moonlight and music thus sweetly may glide

O'er the Lake of Cashmere with that *one* by his side !

If women can make the worst wilderness dear,

Think, think what a Heav'n she must make of Cashmere

Moore

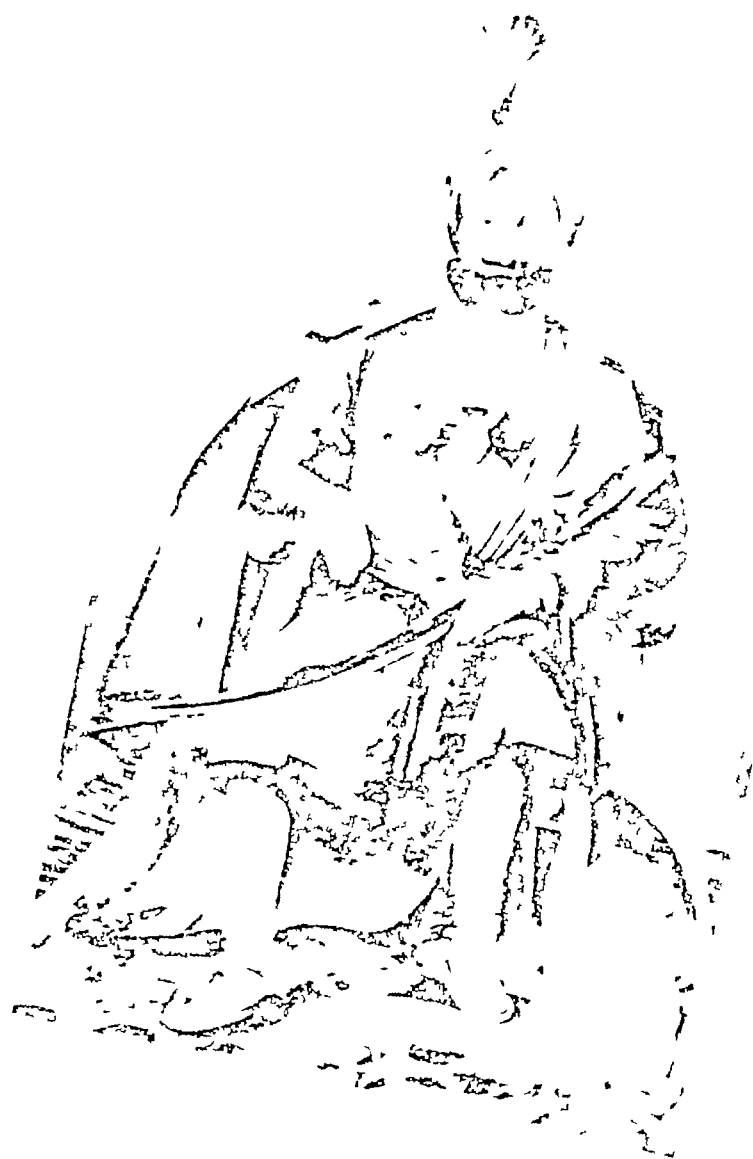


## CHAPTER II

### A SHORT HISTORY OF KASHMIR

**K**ASHMIR has been a part of the Indian Empire from remotest times. It has a record which places it high among the territories of India in point of interest. The history of Kashmir is more a chronicle of kings, courts and conquests than of organic or national growth. Historians are of the opinion that the real history of Kashmir begins with the reign of Asoka.

*Buddhists* Asoka conquered Kashmir in about 250 B C. With him came Buddhism into the country. Kalhan, one of the greatest historians who flourished in the 12th Century narrates in his memorable work, *Rajatarangini* that 'Hinduism went side by side with Buddhism. There was no religious antipathy. Father and son and kings and ministers sometimes had different faith. There was no cast system in the reigns of Asoka (250 B C), Huska (125 A D), Kaniska (160 A D), Juska (185 A D)'. These Buddhist Kings were great builders and architects. Asoka built the first city of Srinagar which extended from the slopes of the hill at Aitgaj to Pandrethan. Buddhism disappeared from Kashmir by about 638 A D. Huen Tsiang (631-633) came to Kashmir and found that Buddhist monasteries were few and temples of the heretics were their sole thought.





The White Huns raided Kashmir in the first half of the sixth century. Mehirakula, the leader, was very cruel and tyranny was the order of his day. He laughed only once in his life while some elephants tumbled down from the top of a hill.

*The Hindus* A notable King was Pravarsena II who reigned about 700 A.D. and built his capital on the site of the present Srinagar stretching from Hariparbat to Shankeracharya hill. He built the first boat-bridge. Another ruler of whom history takes great account is Lalitaditya, the contemporary of Charlemagne (699–736 A.D.). He built temples of Martand and founded his capital at Parihaspur (Shadipur of today). He is said to have destroyed the former capital of Pravarsena. On Kong, another Chinese traveller visited Kashmir (759–763) and found Kashmir a land of unsettled monarchy but Buddhism was still present.

Avantivaman came into power during 855–883 A.D. He was an orthodox *Vaishnav*. He built temples at Avantipur. It was in his time that a great engineer, Suyya, drained the valley and reclaimed waste land in the neighbourhood of Sopur. Sopur (Suyyapur) commemorates his name to this day.

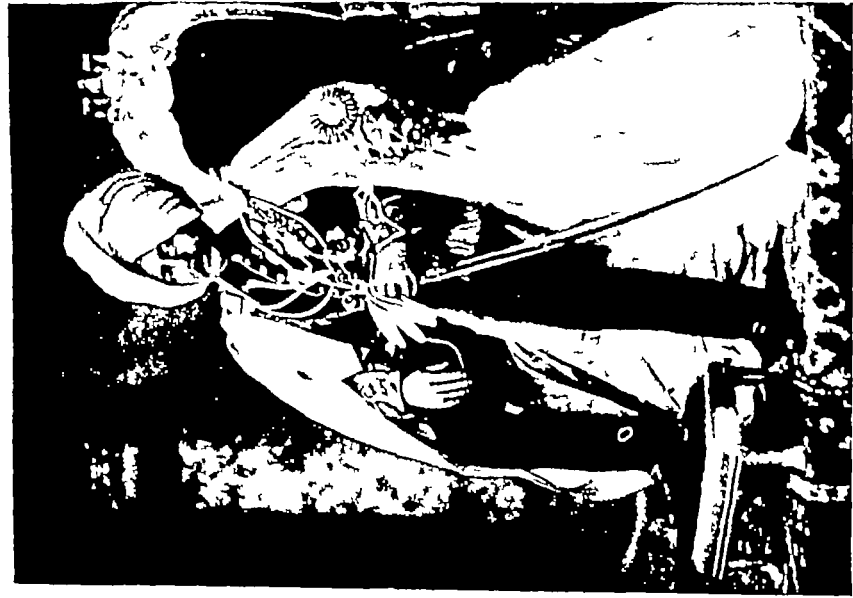
Sankara Vannam 883–902, like most of his predecessors destroyed Parihaspur, the then capital and founded a new city, the town which corresponds with Patan at present. Finally, worthy of mention, in the line of the Hindu Kings is Queen Didda, 950–1003. In her nephew, Sangram raja's reign (1003–28) Mahmud Ghazni invaded Kashmir in 1015, and 1021.

A D but natural barriers helped Kashmir to escape from his cruel hands

*The Muslims* The subsequent history of Kashmir for some hundreds of years was a succession of violent changes in which dynasty succeeded dynasty, as some adventurer or other, by his military talents, acquired power. While Kashmir was being ruled by Raja Simha Deo (1295-1325 A D) three notable personalities came to his court. These were Ranchen Shah, Prince of Tibet who was driven off by his uncle Lankar Chak, ruler of Dardistan who was beaten by his enemies and Shahmir, grandson of a famous hermit, Fur Shah. The King sympathised with their miseries and took them under service. These guests, thereafter, turned untrue to their salt and turned the pages of history and with them originated Muslim rule over Kashmir.

In 1322 Changez Khan, the Turk invaded Kashmir. Brahmans were enslaved. Simha Deo and his minister Ramchand fled away. Ramchand returned when the enemy was gone back but was treacherously killed, while sleeping in the room, by Ranchan Shah and Shah Mir. Ranchan Shah assumed the title of Sadru ud Din and declared himself King. He married Ramchand's daughter, Kuta Rani. He persecuted the Hindus. His rule lasted from 1325 to 1327.

A brother of Simha Deo captured the throne in 1327 and married the widow queen. He fled away in 1331 on the Tartar invasion under Urwan. Shahmir, his minister, assumed power and was declared King. Thus Kashmir began to be ruled by a line of so-



H H MAHARAJA PRATAP SINGH



H H MAHARAJA RANBIR SINGH



called Sultans Worthy of mention is Sultan Sikandar (1394-1417) who demolished several temples and murdered Hindus He is said to have burnt seven maunds of the sacred threads of newly-murdered Brahmans Happily, he was succeeded by Zam-ul-abdin who was a good ruler both for Hindus and Moham-medans He erected many bridges and buildings Hindu learning revived and Brahmans regained their influence in his reign This enlightened sultan's death left Kashmir a prey to the old anarchial influences

*Moghuls.* It was not until the conquest of the territory by the Emperor Akbar at the end of the sixteenth century that a reign of order and law under Moghul rule was established Akbar's association with Kashmir is one of the poetic traditions of Indian History Though he visited Kashmir only three times in his life, yet he was much attracted to it and gave much attention to its administration It is, however, to the Emperor Jehangir that Kashmir owes its opulent memories of Moghul rule This monarch was greatly attracted by this country and he lavished upon it an extraordinary amount of money and care He, consequently, had magnificent buildings and lovely pleasure gardens constructed in their appropriate positions He was succeeded by the Emperor Shahjahan during whose reign many beautiful buildings and gardens were laid out The Moghul connection lasted until the middle of the eighteenth century, when, in consequence of the decline of Imperial Power of Moghuls the *subah* of Kashmir became perfectly independent of Delhi The last go



from Delhi by King Mohammed Shah (1719-1748) was Abbul Monsoor Khan

*Afghans.* Thereafter Afghan influence was established over Kashmir in 1753 under the leadership of Ahmed Shah Durrani. Most of the Afghan governors were brutal. One of them Azad Khan, tied up the Hindus two by two in grass sacks and sank them in Dal Lake. The last of them was Jabbar Khan, 1819.

*Sikhs.* At length, the people being impoverished and miserable turned for aid to Ranjit Singh of Lahore whose rising star was then attracting the attention of the whole of India. In consequence of the appeal, the Sikh Chief sent an army to Kashmir in 1814. The expedition was a failure and again in 1819 Ranjit Singh's best general, accompanied by Gulab Singh of Jammu, invaded Kashmir and established Sikh Power. The Sikhs though milder than Afghans were in many respects cruel. The last governor appointed by the Sikh Government at Lahore was Sheikh Imam-ud-Din (1846).

*Dogras.* While Kashmir was passing through such vicissitudes, a new power was growing in influence on the environs of the state. This was the authority waged by Gulab Singh, a Rajpoot who was one of Ranjit Singh's favourite lieutenants. Created Raja of Jammu in 1820 for services rendered to the Sikh cause, Gulab Singh, by force of character, speedily organised his territory on firm lines and established a complete domination of nearly all the country between Kashmir and the Punjab. Ladakh and Baltistan were also conquered with the conse-



H. H. MAHARAJA SIR HARI SING BAHADUR, G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O.



quence that Gulab Singh was practically master of all the territory immediately surrounding Kashmir. When war broke out between the British and the Sikhs, Gulab Singh did not take part until in 1846, after the battle of Sobraon, when he acted the part of a mediator between the British and the beaten army. As a result of this, Kashmir was transferred from the British to Gulab Singh for the sum of Rs 75 lakhs by a treaty signed March 16, 1846 A.D. Gulab Singh despatched Dewan Lakhpat Rai to take possession of Kashmir but Immam-ud Din, defeated the army and killed the general. Gulab Singh applied to Sir Henry Lawrence for possession and the English helped him. Gulab Singh entered Srinagar on the 9th November, 1846, and reached Sher Garhi at 8 a.m. According to the treaty Gulab Singh agreed to present annually one horse, twelve goats and three pairs of shawls in token of his recognition of British supremacy.

Maharaja Gulab Singh was a good administrator and was an able man. As a brave Rajput, he defeated many enemies in his time. He died in 1857. Maharaja Sir Ranbir Singh Sahib, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. succeeded him. He was an excellent ruler, a man of learning and culture and strong intelligence. On his death in September of 1885, he was succeeded by his eldest son, General His Highness Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.B.E., LL.D., Indar—Mohindar, Sipar-i-Salatnat of Jammu and Kashmir State. He was 35 when he came to the throne and had already made his mark as a scholar

and administrator. He reigned very efficiently for about 40 years and died in 1925. He was succeeded by his nephew, Maharaja Sir Hari Singh Sahib, G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O. etc., who is the present ruler. He is a kind man, a sportsman and is very fond of an active life.

*The Early Hindus.* It is held by people that Sri Ramchandra of Ceylon fame was the first who established rule on firm lines. It was part of his vast Empire and his son, Kush was the Governor of Kashmir. Kaushalaya, mother of Sri Ramchandra was a Kashmiri married to his father Dasrath. The religious books of the Hindus and some shrines named after Sri Ramchandra existing to this day stand in evidence of the above.

There is a mention in the ancient Chronicles of Gonada who ruled in Kashmir in about 3121 B.C. Kalhan says that he reigned in 2448 B.C. but Prof Wilson places him on the throne in 1440 B.C. He is said to be the glorious King of Kashmir. He was a relative of Raja Jarasindh who fought against Lord Krishna of Mahabharat fame. Raja Ram Deo is said to have built the temple at Matan in 3007 B.C.

The early Hindu Kings were almost all scholars or patrons of learning. They ruled with justice according to the dictates of religion. The Brahmans who were especially learned and far sighted were highly honoured.





U L P H

SRINAGAR IN WINTER

## CHAPTER III

### THE VALE OF KASHMIR

**T**HE Vale of Kashmir is picturesquely set in the lap of the snow-clad Himalayas with such an unrivalled combination—nowhere excelled—of vast expanses of flat country with rich alluvial soil, lofty and glacial mountains, crystal streams, lofty crags, torrents, broad lakes, shady Chenar groves and pine forests, that this valley is one of the most beautiful spots in the world

The happy Vale of Kashmir is renowned most for its wonderful air, lovely scenery and excellent beauty. This is that happy valley where one can make life most enjoyable to different tastes and interests. This is that valley where spring appears in all its glory. This is that fairy lotus land where the lotus blooms to greatest perfection. This is that happy valley where trees like chenar and poplar are most beautiful at all stages. This is that happy valley before which the title "Eden of the East" blushes and poets find inspiration and artists undreamed beauties of colour and scenery for the brush. This is that valley where one can find the pleasure gardens around the Dal lake and think of



Akbar, the pomp of Jahangir and the charm of Noorjahan, whose association with Kashmir is a lasting tribute which they paid to the lovely scenery which can be found nowhere else other than in the fairyland of Kashmir—the land of Nature's beauty, 'thoughts wilderness,' 'the Terrestrial Paradise of the Indies,' which old Bernier said "surpassed in beauty all that his warm imagination had ever anticipated." It is here in this beautiful valley that lofty hills, snow-capped mountains, beautiful glaciers, flat country interspersed hither and thither with fields and fruit gardens are all exhibited close to each other and provide for everybody's taste and interest. An even greater thing is this, that the valley possesses in a grand scale, a variety of scenes, climate, fruits and vegetables and so one can never get bored with dullness. One can have innumerable changes and does not require to spend much time and money in moving from one place to the other. There are many lakes in Kashmir situated on thousands of altitudes both among the mountains and in the valley. The most important are the Wular and Dal in the Kashmir valley. Lake Wular is the largest fresh water lake in India.

The climate of the Kashmir valley is healthy and invigorating, its amazing wealth of flowers and fruit blossoms is undescribably beautiful, and the grand panorama of surrounding snow-capped mountains, with peaks ascending to about 28,000 feet, is one of the grandest in the world. The natural beauty, the scenery on mountains and lowlands is enhanced by the gorgeous display of blossoms on immense number



ULPH

VILLAGE GIRLS

77



of fruit-bearing trees of many varieties

The Kashmir valley is famous for fruits which are renowned for their durability, juiciness and flavour throughout the whole world. The Kashmir valley is well-known for its production of excellent fruits such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, strawberries and various other fruits which grow in Europe. Jams are made from many fruits. Tea, cinchona and hops are also cultivated. Kashmir produces many crops, the chief being rice, maize, wheat, barley, and millets and pulses which can thrive without much rain due to great humidity in the valley. Other things of importance are saffron, *banafsha* and *silajit*.

The people are very skilful and manufacture beautiful woollen fabrics, celebrated shawls, excellent carpets etc. and these are now an established industry in Kashmir. Embroidery on various material—shawls, *numdas* (floorcloth), *sarees* (silk loose garments) etc—has become an art of exquisite nature. Puttoo, an imitation of tweeds, is largely exported from Kashmir and affords a cheap suiting. Wood carving is an ancient craft of the country and very fine examples of architectural work are still to be seen in some of the old mosques. The Kashmir silversmiths are good craftsmen. Copper smiths are equally good too and place in the market various designs of materials of a good finish. The silk industry is a special feature of Kashmir where stands one of the largest and biggest silk factories in the world. Besides this happy valley of Kashmir, there are many side valleys like Lidar, Lolab, Sind, etc. which are the continuation of the

Valley. They too have grand scenery, excellent climate and forests of pine and deodar

The Kashmir valley is 84 miles long and 24 miles broad with an area of about 4,500 sq miles at an altitude of 5,200 ft. The main portion of the valley of Kashmir, so much renowned, is the central part of the Kashmir Province and is enclosed by Pansal, Pir Punjal, Darwar, Harmukh and Sonmarg mountains. Kashmir valley is said to be under the water of a mighty lake where there was no human habitation but some demons, as regarded by people, used to live whom a saint, Kashyap after whose name Kashmir is called, defeated them and conquered this country. Later on, he as a great engineer of the time, widened the passage of the River Jhelum—near Baramulla, a motor station on the Rawalpindi Srinagar route, after cutting the rocks on both sides of the river. This fact as well as a large number of streams, fountains, rivers, and lakes found throughout the whole of the valley testify that Kashmir might have been once a sheet of water. Be it a myth or story, an inference or a fact, with this reference it is left to investigators to decide whether this Happy Valley was once a sheet of water.

The river Jhelum for the major portion of its course in the valley runs in a serpentine curve and on its bank stands Srinagar, the Capital of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

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PANORAMIC VIEW OF SRINAGAR

## CHAPTER IV

### THE CLIMATE OF KASHMIR

**K**ASHMIR possesses a variety of climate owing to the widely differing altitudes, for instance Jammu has tropical heat being on the same altitude as the Punjab, while Kashmir situated in the sub-tropical area is subject to an extraordinary variation of temperature and there is a proverb in Kashmir "one must have fan and fur together" Dr Arthur Neve, Late Surgeon to the Kashmir Medical Mission writes from his life's experience of Kashmir that "the climate of Kashmir is quite eminently suitable for Europeans We ought rather to say the 'climates' of Kashmir, for as much variety, whether in temperature or humidity etc, can be obtained in different parts of Kashmir as in the whole of Europe, from the shores of the Mediterranean to the North Cape"

The climate of the Vale of Kashmir is most salubrious and invigorating Dr Neve further writes, "the climate of the valley until quite the end of May, is similar to that of Switzerland As a whole, the climate of Kashmir is much better suited to invalids than that of many other Indian Sanatorium For chest cases, it is more suitable than the climate of England. For convalescents from



those who are weakened by prolonged fever or over-strain, for the early stages of consumption, nervous disease, dyspepsia etc Kashmir is eminently suitable during the summer and autumn "

Kashmir is gifted with the world's finest lakes and springs The springs charged with effects of herhal soil are abundant Water of "Chashma Shahi" spring is regarded as being able to cure digestive troubles of every kind For the benefit of my readers, I give here some useful hints about the various health resorts and springs in the Kashmir valley

Kookernag spring water is useful for pleurisy and asthma and the general climate of the place is suited for lung complaints.

Achhabal spring water is useful for bladder and kidney troubles and low appetite and the general climate is useful for lung complaints Ganderbal spring (locally called *Bihuma*) water has proved useful in cases of all kinds of fever particularly tuberculous ones The climate of Manasbal is useful for patients suffering from tuberculosis.

The climate of Pahalgam has proved efficacious for patients suffering from cough and tuberculosis, low appetite, dyspepsia and physical debility, Gulmarg possesses very good climate (but its water is not good like others) Tangmarg at the foot of Gulmarg and Batote on the Banihal road are very useful for lung complaints and there are sanatoria for tuberculosis patients at Tangmarg and Batote The water of the Harwan which is the main source of supply for Srinagar induces constipation The sulphur-springs at

Islamabad, Woin, Khru, etc., are useful for skin diseases. Sonmarg is also very good for general complaints. The elevation of Gulmarg and Sonmarg (8500) is too great for many of those who suffer from heart disease and are susceptible to asthma.

Owing to its high altitude and presence of mountains the climate of Kashmir is never very hot and from October to April, it is intensely cold. The summer commences in May but the heat scarcely exceeds that of South Italy. Gradation of climate is obtainable at different places, at one time, for instance, the mean temperature at Srinagar in July is about  $75^{\circ}$ , in the Lidar or Sind valleys at a height of 7000 ft. the mean never exceeds  $65^{\circ}$ . at Gulmarg or Sonmarg in Sind or Aru in Lidar, all above 8000 feet, the average daily temperature never exceeds  $60^{\circ}$ , and the mean temperature in July never exceeds  $50^{\circ}$  at 10,000 or 12,000 feet and also extremes of cold are met with at higher altitudes.

The spring in March and April is windy and cold and trees are laden with flowers. The summer in May and June is quite pleasant, flowers begin to fall and visitors begin to come to Kashmir, but after the middle of June tourists leave Srinagar for colder places like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg etc. as July and August are unpleasantly warm at Srinagar. At the end of August visitors begin to return to Srinagar for shopping or visiting beauty spots in the valley and its neighbourhood. The autumn is clear, fairly cool and most pleasant of all. In November, there is usually saffron bloom.

196 miles The road is practically level for the first 17 miles, the ascent begins at the twenty-third mile and increases rapidly until it reaches Sunny Bank (*Murree*) The way is winding with good scenery. Descent begins onwards and continues till Kohala is reached where passengers are scorched by the heat of the sun and this is the place whence the territory of the Maharaja begins Further on the visitor meets beautiful scenery, and a refreshing breeze A special feature is this, that the River Jhelum continues alongside the road for the most part of the journey, which enhances its charm Beyond Baramulla is a Poplar Avenue which is most fascinating It was laid out by NurJahan, the 'Light of the World' who conceived the idea of planting that road with an avenue of those tall and giant trees of Poplar (the *safeda*), said to be brought from Chinese Turkestan This route is blocked for a couple of days due to snow-fall over Murree and the mail goes then via Abbotabad The stages *en route* with necessary hints are given as following —

1. *Barako*, a military camp station,
2. *Satara-mile*, here toll is paid,
3. *Chhatar*, here is a nice fruit garden,
4. *Tret*, here radiators are renewed,
5. *Chhara Pani*, the first place where scorched passengers coming from the plains are refreshed,
6. *Ghoragali* possesses a small market,
7. *Sunny Bank*, whence two miles up on a side-road is Murree, an important hill station,
8. *Chikagali*, the highest point of the journey,
9. *Bagla*, a small village with a dharmshala,



G D B.

KASHMIR BEAUTY



10. *Phagwari* is also a village like Bagla ;

11. *Kohala*, where toll is paid, suspension bridge is crossed to gain Kashmir territory .

12. *Dulai* where the Marquis of Ripon, the then Viceroy of India and Lady Ripon were given refreshments in 1883 which gave the name, 'Honeymoon Cottage,' to the place

13. *Domel*—the meeting place of the two rivers of Jhelum and Kishanganga—here toll is again paid, passengers' luggage is inspected, next

14. *Garhi* has a small bazar

15. *Chinari* " where ruins of an old palace are close by and this is a good night halting place ;

16 *Urhi* possesses a very good dak bungalow and a little further on the main Road is the famous *Electric Power Station at Mahora* with its immense power house, the water head obtained is from the River Jhelum and the fall is above 400 feet in height ;

17. *Rampur* where green rice fields are very bewitching and an old temple supposed to be the most perfect shrine of its kind in India is located here; Leaving Rampur it takes a sharp turn and Vale of Kashmir is open to one's wondering gaze

18 *Baramulla* is the biggest town in the Happy valley of Kashmir There is a big market of fruits and beyond it, the road is one of the most beautiful in the world, being bordered with tall, erect, and white Poplar trees; further—

19. *Patan* contains some excavations 'of' old Hindu temples, after Patan with beautiful scenery all round, you reach Srinagar—the Capital of Kashmir

For mileage, altitude and other information about the stages a table is given as following.—

### Rawalpindi Srinagar *via* Murree

Stages	Miles from Rawalpindi	Height in feet	Remarks
Rawalpindi N W R		1725	P O, T O, D B, Hotels etc
Barako	13	1940	P O, D B
Satramile	17	2000	
Ohhatar	19	2100	R H
Tret	25	3300	P O T O, D B
Ghoragali	35	5000	" "
Sunny Bank	37	6000	" " D B
Murree	40	6500	" " " Hotels
Ohhika gale	42	6500	
Bagla	47	5500	
Phagwari	54	3000	
Kohala	66	1900	P.O, T O, D B
Dulai	79	2100	D B,
Domel	87	2230	P O, T O, "
Garhi	99	2700	" " D B
Ohinari	115	3500	" "
Uri	133	4400	" " D B
Rampur	146	4900	" "
Betramulla	162	5182	" T O, D.B R H
Patan	179	5200	" "
Srinagar	196	5214	" " " "etc

P O —POST OFFICE,

D B —DAK BUNGALOW

T O —TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

R H —REST HOUSE.

### Jammu Srinagar *via* Banihal

Jammu is a beautiful city situated on the bank of the River Tawi at a height of 1300 feet above the sea level. It is the capital of Jammu Province and His Highness resides here in winter. The city is a very old one and is thought to have been founded by Raja Jambu Lochan some 5000 years ago. It is 114 miles

from Lahore and stands on the N W.Ry. There are some places of interest

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Royal Palaces          | 2. Ram Nagar Palace        |
| 3 Court Buildings        | 4 Museum                   |
| 5 Electric Power Station | 6 Prince of Wales' College |
| 7 Silk factory           | 8 Fort Bahu                |
| 9 Raghu Nath Temple      |                            |

35 miles from Jammu is Veshnu Devi temple which is visited by thousands of pilgrims

Jammu to Srinagar is 206 miles and the journey presents throughout natural scenery The stages that come in the way are the following

1. *Rani Talao* where toll is paid
2. *Jhaffar* is a small village
- 3 *Udhampur* is a good district of the state and has court, hospital, jail, etc
4. *Samrole* possesses a spring said to cure digestive troubles
- 5 *Dromthal* where wild pomegranates are very commonly seen
- 6 *Kud* is a nice night halting place ,
- 7 *Batote* possesses a Sanitorium for tuberculo-sis patients, its climate is very nice ,
- 8 *Ramban* possesses a climate similar to Batote ,
- 9 *Ramsu* claims a good climate , next is ,
10. *Banihal* which leads a little further to a tunnel two hundred yards long constructed at a great cost and at 9000 feet high above sea level.



11 *Munda* (Upper and lower) whence Kashmir Valley commences, (between these two, a road bifurcates to Vary Nag. Settle with the driver to show it on the way which is about 2 miles from Munda)

12. *Qazigund* is a good fruit exporting Market.

13. *Khannabal* possesses His Highness's Rest House and a mile eastward is Anantnag The onward journey passes a road beautifully bordered with Poplar trees. Next comes,

14. Avantipur possessing ruins of a Hindu temple, Pampur possessing saffron fields, Pandrethan temple with its ruins, various gardens and buildings till you reach Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir A table is given as follows to furnish you with other information

### Jammu-Srinagar Route

Stages	Miles from Jammu	Altitude	Remarks
Jammu N W R		1800	P O T O D B
Jhajjar	21	3000	" D B
Udhampur	42	2848	" T O "
Dharamthal	55	3700	
Kud	66	5700	D B
Batote	80	5116	" T O "
Ramban	97	2400	" " "
Ramsu	113	4100	
Banihal	124	5700	P O, T O D B.
Munda	154	7000	
Qazi Gund	160	5677	P O, T O D B
Khannabal	175	5800	P O
Avantipur	188	5250	P O
Srinagar	206	5214	" T O etc

P O — POST OFFICE

D B — DAK BUNGALOW

T O — TELEGRAPH OFFICE ETC.—HOTELS, HOUSE-BOATS

## Abbotabad Srinagar Route

Abbotabad is a Hill Station 4000 feet high above Sea-level The approach is made to it through Havelian a station on the North Western railway whence Abbotabad is nine miles The total distance from Havelian upto Srinagar is 169 miles and this route meets the Rawalpindi route at Domel whence Srinagar is 111 miles The following table will let you know stages and mileages,—

Stage	Miles from Havelian	Remarks
Abbotabad	9	4010 Alt P O T O D,B
Manechnra	25	8550 " " " "
Garhi Habibulla	44	2655 " " " "
Muzzaferabad	57	
Domel	58	See Rawalpindi Route
Srinagar	169	

P O & T O - POST OFFICE AND  
TELE OFFICE

D B - DAK BUNGALOW

## Arrangements for Stay in Kashmir

Kashmir welcomes you with varied types of accommodation There are thousands of beautiful house boats, comfortable and cheap hotels and nice camping grounds Visitors can find hotels at Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam There are huts also available at Gulmarg Leaving these places, tourists must depend upon tents in Kashmir and they will be delighted if they encamp at Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Srinagar as well They may also use dak-bungalows and rest houses, under their rules, wherever

present. There are some ladies residing in house boats in Srinagar who receive paying guests. Information regarding rates etc may be got from Visitor's Bureau, Srinagar, or the various agencies at Srinagar. There is also a Nursing Home where European visitors may stay in Srinagar.

*House-boats* Living in house boats in the summer months in the valley of Kashmir is most fascinating and for those who love fishing, the life becomes more interesting, but it is rather a luxurious way of living. There are thousands of house-boats of beautiful patterns in varied sizes. They are generally furnished with carpets, table cloth, cushions, curtains, pictures, tables, chairs, flower-pots, looking glasses, beds, almiras, shelves, crockery, cutlery, cooking utensils, commode, tubs, etc. Some of them have a set of books, periodicals and make a small library. Some have electric fitting and are lit when current is close by. They are generally single-storeyed with a ladder for the roof where one can sit on chairs and enjoy riverian scenery. There are three classes of house-boats.

A standard size house-boat contains more than 2 bed rooms, one dining room, one sitting room, a pantry and a couple of bath rooms. Doonga house-boats are smaller and consist of two bed-rooms, one dining room, one sitting room and two bath rooms and a pantry. These boats are less furnished but are cheaper and are more suitable for moving about. Boarded doongas are still smaller and higher. They consist of four rooms and move easily.



A SCENE NEAR DAL GATE



To each house boat is attached a kitchen boat and a shikara free of charge. The latter is a long narrow boat paddled by two to six boatmen and meant for pleasure trips. For moving the house-boats down stream four to six and up stream six to eight extra crew are needed. The kitchen boat accommodates servants. The rent generally includes the services of a *Chowkidar* and two crews. For additional men, and electric light, extra is paid. Kitchen utensils are free of charge. Generally, the whole house boat is lent. There is one "Hindu Hotel" on boat below Amirakadal where one can live under a hotel system. For the charges of mooring house boats along the banks of the Jhelum at Srinagar and their rents, the appendix should be consulted.

**Tents** Very few people stay long at Srinagar and it is recommended that those who come for the whole summer should have their own tents or they may hire from agencies at Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. With tents one can move from place to place according to the nature of the season with little transport expenses. It is desirable to have always good tents. A double fly and double-poled tent of 12×9 ft. in size weighing 2 maunds is recommended. When wet, the outerfly takes up nearly half a maund of water. Any size bigger than this adds to the difficulty in transport. For a bachelor, a doublefly Kabul tent, weighing 84 lbs is enough. Sufficient extra pegs should always be taken. Before starting and packing, pegs and ropes should be tested and checked as the coolies have the habit of stealing.

*Camping in Kashmir* There are some good camping grounds on the lake such as Nasim Bagh which are much superior, for beauty and salubrity, to the gardens at Srinagar. Chenar Bagh is an unhealthy place for camping in Srinagar. Formerly, there were many pitching grounds here like Munshi Bagh, Sonawar-Bagh open to all visitors, but from 1931 tents are not allowed to be pitched without permission from the authorities. Since 1931, a land tax has also been imposed. The monthly rents of the camping sites at various places in Kashmir are as follows —

Chenar Bagh	Rs 6/-	Nasim Bagh	Rs 6/-
Pahalgam	Rs 8/-	Gulmarg	Rs 8/-
Ganderbal	Rs 8/-		

The camping site is generally 110' x 75'. There are no such charges in Ladakh, Gilgit, Skardu, etc and in the countryside in the state of Kashmir and Jammu.

*Camp-Outfit* Folding chairs, tables, and beds, bath room furniture, cooking pots, etc may be hired from the agencies. Light trunks are preferred for camp use. Whatever is used must be water tight and the coverings water-proof.

*Hotels at Srinagar* Nedou's Hotel situated on Hotel Road, opposite Polo Grounds is the best hotel for Europeans. The Khalsa Hindu Hotel, Punjab Hindu Hotel, Indian Hotel, all situated at Amirakadal, the first bridge, are for Hindus. The Punjab Muslim Hotel, Sharif Muslim Hotel, Satara Muslim Hotel located on the first bridge are for

the Muslims Also there is one 'Kashmir Hindu Hotel' on house boat below 1st bridge

*Bungalows and Houses* There are some good bungalows and houses on Karan Singh Boulevard Road, Gupkar Road, Kothu Bagh, Hari Singh High Street, etc which may be taken on rent Booking in advance is recommended

For Gulmarg and Pahalgam, see also their respective chapters

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## CHAPTER VI

### SRINAGAR "THE VENICE OF ASIA."

**S**SRINAGAR is one of the most beautiful garden cities of the world and is peerless in its natural charm. It is the capital and the largest town in Kashmir. It possesses a vast plain country at 5200 ft. above the sea level being bounded at the extremity with a solid phalanx of mountains partly covered with snow and spare vegetation and partly hidden in a veil of flying mist and over-hanging clouds. Young-husband remarks that "Srinagar, the city of the sun, in spite of dirt and squalor and its present low-lying situation, must be ranked among the most beautiful in the East, and in its peculiar style unique."

"Srinagar has been called the Venice of the East. Both cities are splendid and waterways in either form the main thoroughfares, shikars, the Kashmir canoes, being first cousins to gondolas," writes Swinburne. To spend one's honeymoon against the charming background of Kashmir is most delightful. A shikara ride in the pellucid moonlight is most lovely, and the charms of Kashmir Riverian landscape are certainly most fascinating.



U. L. P. H.

A BRIDGE ON JHELUM

1



R. C. A.

NEAR MUNSHI BAGH,



"Such life there, through such lengths of hours,

Such miracles performed in play,

Such primal naked forms of flowers,

Such letting Nature have her way,

Where heaven looks down from its Himalayan towers "

The city is situated in an amphitheatre of snow-clad mountains and possesses quaint wooden houses on either banks of the River Jhelum, canals and waterways intersecting it, and with a flotilla of gorgeous house boats on quasi-English lines on the placid waters appears extremely picturesque. The city has an area of about 5,139 acres with a population of more than 2 lakhs and extends for a distance of more than 4 miles on both banks of the River Jhelum which is spanned by six picturesque wooden bridges. They are Amrakadal (First bridge), Habba Kadal (Second bridge), Fatehkadal (Third bridge), Zenakadal (Fourth bridge), Nawakadal (Fifth bridge), and Saffakadal (Sixth bridge). Down the Saffakadal is Chhatal Lock gate. The River Jhelum is very important as it forms the main highway to all parts of the city.

Srinagar is a great commercial centre being situated midway between the trade routes to the Punjab on one hand and Northern Kashmir and Tibet on the other. The busy markets are located on the first, third and fourth bridges. Down the sixth bridge is a bonded Ware house of Central Asian and Yarkand traders.

The people live in quaint wooden houses. Their residential quarters are almost insanitary and gloomy. On the whole the people are poor and illiterate. However, with the development of science, Kashmir

has not been backward and now possesses all the amenities of a modern city. Electric light, cinemas, pipe system water-supply, metalled roads, brick and cemented houses and bungalows are built. Schools, colleges, hospitals, factories, workshops and clubs have been opened.

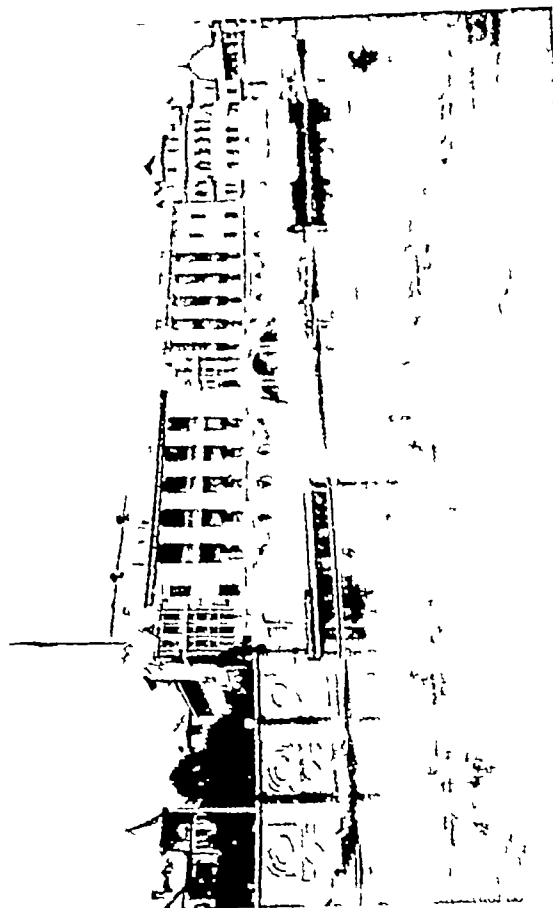
Up the Kothi Bagh is Civil Lines or the Mall. There lives a small European company who are very social. Polo, golf, tennis, cricket, etc., are widely enjoyed in the city. There are branches of some of the important banks such as Lloyds and the Imperial Bank at Srinagar and Gulmarg. Morning or evening walk on the Bund (River embankment) and Karan Singh Boulevard Road are very pleasant.

"Life in Srinagar flows on very easily and pleasantly if somewhat lazily. The days are usually taken up with eating and drinking, shopping and gossiping with one's friends, neighbours and the wily merchants who daily infest one's boat," are the true remarks of Mr Wakefield.

The New Palaces of His Highness are located a little above the Nishat Road on the north of Srinagar about 2 miles from the First bridge. The site is very good and commands an excellent view of the Dal. These palaces are popularly known as Gupkar Palaces.

### **The Secretariat**

The grand magnificent buildings with huge massive walls, lofty columns, gigantic towers and a massive gilt domed temple standing on the left bank



GOVT SECRETARIAT,

SRINAGAR

U L P H



of the Jhelum below Amirakadal—are the old palaces, called 'Shergarhi' but now the Secretariat of Kashmir Government. The buildings constitute an excellent well-decorated Darbar Hall, Governor's Office, State treasury, etc. A long vista of broad river with reflections of magnificent buildings and gliding of boats on its placid waters backed by the distant mountain ranges makes a most picturesque scene. The charm of the illuminations on these buildings on occasions like Maharaja's birthday, Diwali etc. is undeniably fascinating.

The palace was badly injured by the earthquake but part of it has been re-built. Beyond the golden temple is the beautiful mansion built by the late Raja Sir Amar Singh, father of the present Maharaja.

### **Silk Factory**

The Kashmir Government silk factory is one of the largest and biggest of its kind in the world. The silk is of a very high quality and used to be exported all over the world but the rivalry of synthetic silk has caused irrecoverable loss to the industry which was a very old one in Kashmir. The silk worm belonging to the families of Bombycidae and Saturniidae are reared which prepare cocoons whence silk thread is taken out and reeled up scientifically. Thousands of workers are daily engaged in the factory. It will interest you to visit the factory. It is located on Rambagh road about a mile from Phool Bridge. Visiting hours are from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday only.



ing holidays The director of the management of the factory has issued a notice for the guidance of the visitors.

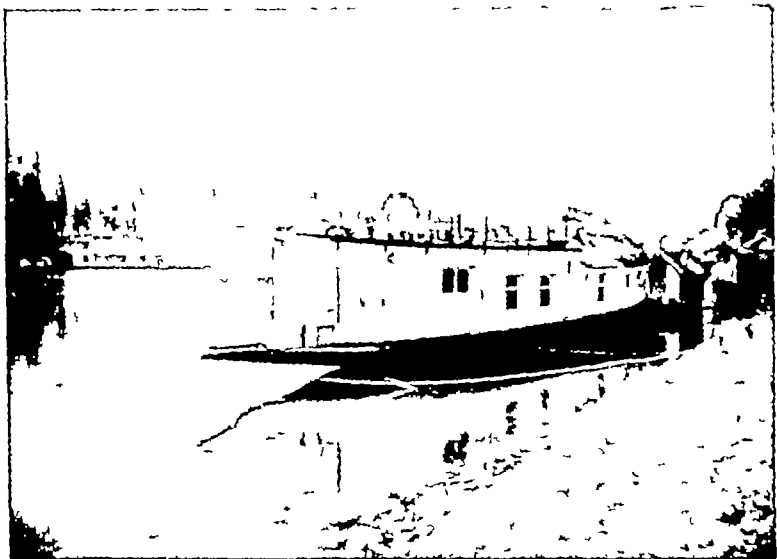
"Any person wishing to visit silk factory must apply, in writing, to the Director of Sericulture Department for a pass, at least 3 days in advance of the intended visit, giving at the same time full name, permanent address and address in Kashmir, written clearly The management on deciding whether the visit can be arranged will send the permission pass to the visitor's lodge fixing the date and time for the visit."

### **Technical Institute**

This institute was erected by the Kashmir Darbar as a memorial to the late Sir Raja Amar Singh, K C S.I and was opened in 1904 This is situated near the 1st Bridge adjoining Hazuri Bagh. The scope of the institution is intended to teach the arts and crafts of Kashmir Its building is small but beautiful The subjects taught are —Willow basket making, painting, binding, dyeing, blacksmithy, engineering and wood-carving The last thing is now shifted to Jammu Technical Institute It possesses a "Show Room" which contains many Kashmir products manufactured by the students of the institute There is a gate-keeper incharge who will give you the 'Visitors Book' to sign your name and will show you all the things It is open for visits from 10 a m to 3 p m.

### **Lal Mundi Library**

Lal Mundi is situated on the left bank of the Jhelum about 3 furlongs from Amirakadal The



R. C. A.

MOORING A HOUSEBOAT

SRINAGAR



R. C. A.

CHHATABAL WEIR

SRINAGAR



building is enclosed in a small garden This was built by the late Maharaja Pratap Singh as a guest house and banquet hall but is now used as a library, known as Sri Pratap Library, the biggest in Kashmir A section of the building is used as a museum and meteorological department but since the mob agitation of 1931, the museum is also closed to the public This place was also called 'Museum' before it was closed The museum section consisted of specimens of Kashmir arts and crafts, portraits of the rulers, old weapons, coins and relics etc

### **Hari Parbat Fort**

The fort is situated on the summits of Hari Parbat (Hill) at a height of 500 feet from the level of the city about 3 miles from First Bridge This was built by Akbar the Great, at a cost of about a crore of rupees Now there is an ammunition store of guns and spears Inside the fort is a Hindu Shrine dedicated to the goddess Sharika (Kali) A pass to visit the fort is necessary which is obtained from Mohtmid Darbar near Residency On festivals like Ramnaumi and Durga Naumi entrance is without any obligation

There are several images of Hindu Gods in the neighbourhood of the fort on the same hillock

### **Chhatabal-weir**

Past the 6th Bridge of the river Jhelum is Chhatabal weir and lock constructed in 1915. The contract was carried out by Mr Avery at a cost of Rs 1,16,700 It has been so <sup>that it can</sup>

raise the water some 7 feet higher than its minimum level which is essential for navigation in the winter season. It is lowered in the rainy season and raised up in winter. Occasionally it is lowered and raised up in every month to clear off stagnant and dirty water. This process may be repeated several times in a month as circumstances require.

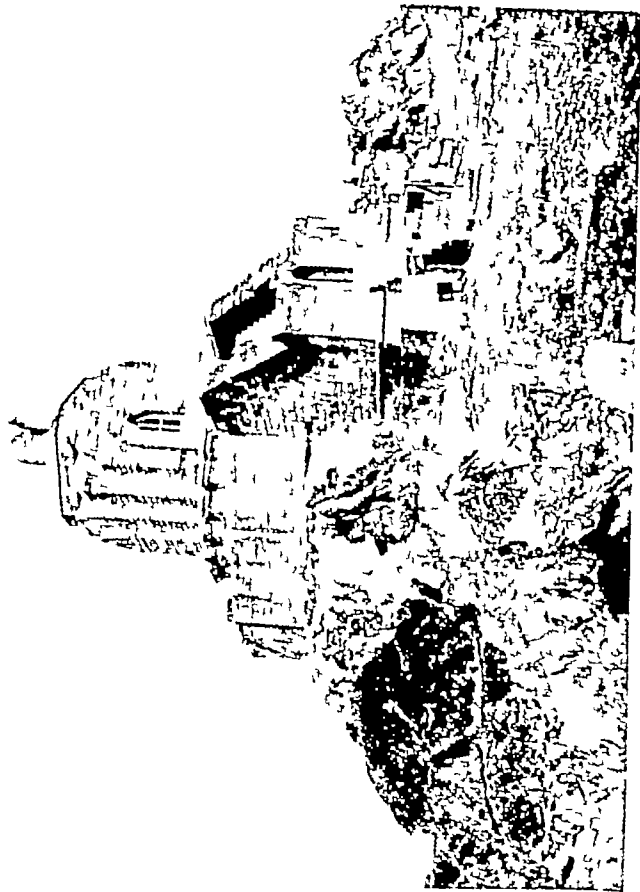
The length of the weir is 453 ft. It can pass boats 20 ft wide and 150 ft long.

### **Temples in Srinagar**

*Shankeracharya's* — This is a prominent landmark of Srinagar. The visitor's eye is readily attracted on approaching Srinagar to the temple situated on the summit of Shankeracharya hill 1000 ft high above the level of the city. Originally, there was a temple here supposed to be built by Sandiman during 2629—2564 B C. It was repaired by Gopaditya during 426—365 B C, and Lalitaditya 699—736 A D. According to some authorities, all tracts of the old shrine have disappeared and the present temple dedicated to God Shiva was raised on the same spot by Raja Gopaditya.

It is about 2 miles from First Bridge. It is quite accessible to climbers from every side but usually the path from Durga Nag is followed which is half a mile from Nedous Hotel. To Muslims this place is regarded as Takht-i-Suleiman.

From here, a tourist can obtain a beautiful panoramic view of the sun-city with the serpentine bed of the Jhelum, quaint wooden and tinsel houses and of the whole of the Dal lake with its islands of silver and



SHANKERACHARYA TEMPLE

U L P H

SRINAGAR



gold and with the world famous Moghul gardens and of the huge ranges of mountains in the far distance For clear views, early morning is recommended

*Durga Nag's* This is a small but beautiful temple, situated at the foot of Shankeracharya hill in the Civil Lines During summer it is usually the favourite rendezvous of Amarnath pilgrims

*Rugh Nath's* This is the biggest temple of Hindus in Srinagar situated on the left bank of the Jhelum between 2nd and 3rd Bridge There is a platform over which a lofty temple is built in the centre of four small temples The temple possesses a capacious courtyard as well as big halls which are meant for public lectures and Sanskrit schools The latter have practically ceased to be held due to the general apathy to learn Sanskrit That is a reason why Kashmir which was the centre of Sanskrit learning even superior to Kashi—Benares—has markedly become backward at present

*Hari Parbat Sharika's* See Hari Parbat Fort.

*Kali Asthapan's* This is situated below the 3rd bridge adjacent to Shah Hamdan's Mosque on the right bank of the Jhelum It was started by Raja Pravarsena II in 79 A D

### **Mosques in Srinagar**

*Jama Masjid* This cathedral mosque of Srinagar is one of the most imposing edifices with cloisters supported by 327 pillars, one half of which is more than 40 feet in height. The huge pillars are made of wood but appear to be made of stone The courtyard is spacious which accommodates thousands of



*namazis* The mosque with its spires and domes reminds one of the ancient architecture of Kashmir

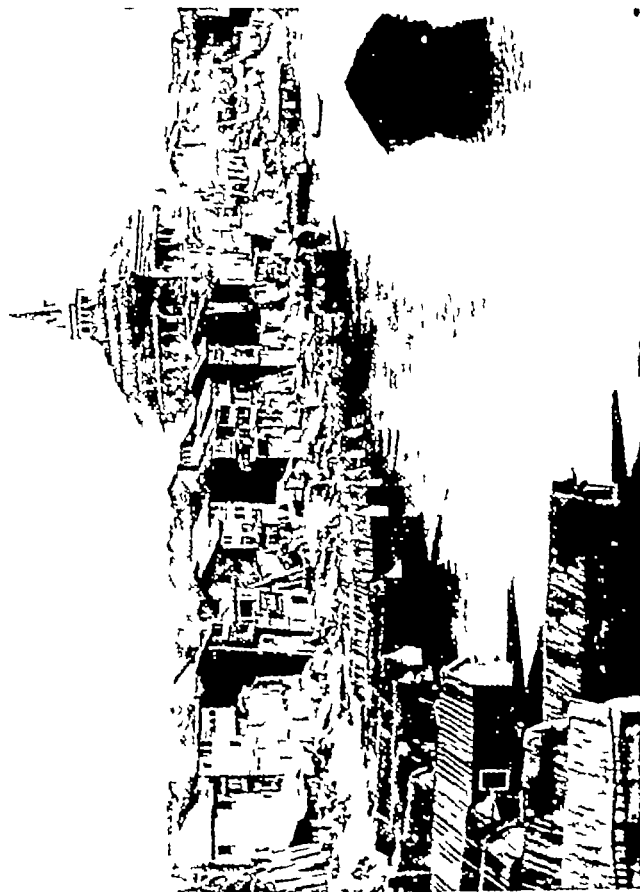
The mosque was originally founded by Sultan Sikandar Shah in 1388. Historians are of opinion that here stood a Hindu temple built by Taradega during 693—697 A D which was demolished by Sikandar and Jama Masjid was built instead out of the materials of the temple

This was destroyed by fire in 1462 but reconstructed in 1473 by Mohamad Shah. There was again a fire afterwards of which no date is available but the third fire occurred in 1665 in the reign of Aurangzeb who reconstructed it so splendidly that it is quite all right with some restoration work in 1916 after a lapse of 250 years

Outside the mosque are some tombs of the former rulers of Kashmir and nearby there is a miniature temple raised on a pillar about 3 feet high

*Shah Hamdan's* This stately wooden mosque is situated on the right bank of the Jhelum below the 3rd bridge. The wooden slabs are used as bricks. The carving on the windows is remarkable. This was built by Kutb-ud-Din in 1373

Historians are of opinion that this was a temple of Kaleshwari which was demolished and a mosque built instead out of the materials of the temple and named after a saint who came from Hamdan, Persia. It was rebuilt by Hasan Shah and Barkat Ali in 1479 and 1731 respectively. There is still a spring dedicated to the goddess Kali within the mosque premises to which Hindus have been denied entrance from some



SRINAGAR & SHAH HAMDAN,



years past There is kept in the mosque the reputed walking stick of Christ which is exhibited on rare occasions This place is approached both by river and motor

*Hazrat Bal's* This shrine is located about 4 miles from First Bridge near Nasim Bagh Here is a mosque where a hair of the Prophet is kept in a bottle brought by Khwaja Nurud-ud-Din from Bijapur in 1700 A D The muslims gather here for prayers in a large number every Friday but on the Id festival, the congregation is immensely large

*Makhdum Sahib's* This is situated on the South of the fort of Hariparbat Kashmiris pray here for the removal of calamities like cholera, famine etc whenever they fall over them It is visible from the Dal lake and Civil Lines

### Churches in Srinagar

*All Saint's* This English Protestant Church dedicated to 'All Saints' is located amidst the beauty of surrounding trees and mountain background in Munshi Bagh near the Srinagar Club The garden is well kept and worth a visit The church was built in 1896 by M Nethersole, formerly Chief Engineer The Church is maintained by the subscriptions and donations of the British community and visitors The Chaplain is appointed and affairs of the Chaplaincy are administered by a church council annually elected from the members of the congregation The President is usually the Resident in Kashmir The service timings can be found on notice boards at Srinagar Club and Nedous' Hotel

*Roman Catholic's* This was built by Franklin Wrinkley about 1900 It was enlarged in 1928 and 1932 and now stands in its original design of a cross on the Hotel Road, a few minutes walk from Nedous' Hotel.

The valuable donations by the residents and the visitors helped to build a Presbytery in 1931 The Catholic Mission in Srinagar was opened in 1891 by Revs Cunningham and Donsen of St Joseph F M Society, Mill Hill, London

### **Prominent Hospitals in Srinagar**

*Civil Hospital* Just above the First Bridge on the left bank of the Jhelum stands the Government Civil Hospital equipped with qualified surgeons, X ray apparatus and an antirabic centre Both male and female wards are provided The average number of out-patients is about 65,000

*Mission Hospital* At the foot of Shankaracharya hill stands Kashmir Mission Hospital It was founded in 1865 by Dr Elmslie Doctors Arthur and E. Neve who served the mission for 30 years since 1882 rebuilt the hospital and erected the Chapel of St Luke The average number of out-patients is 50,000 and in patients 2,000 One pavilion bears the name of the late Maharaja Sir Partap Singh who, accompanied by the Resident, Col Barr, opened it in 1893

*Nursing Home.* This is one of the best institution of its kind in Kashmir and stands for the benefit of European visitors, commissioned officers,

their families and patients. It is located in the Partap Avenue in Civil Lines. It is maintained on fees, subscriptions and donations. People may apply to the Hon Secretary for cheaper accommodation. Here medical attendance can also be given.

*Diamond Jubilee Zenana Hospital* On the occasion of the celebration of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, this hospital was opened by His Highness's Government for the benefit of women patients. This is under the supervision of an efficient European lady doctor. There are 75 beds. The hospital is situated on the left bank of the Jhelum near 5th bridge and can be approached both by motor and river.

*Leper Asylum* This is located at an admirably isolated and healthy position in Nagin Lake. This was started in 1890. It remained for 36 years under Mission Surgeons but a few years ago it was taken over and has since been maintained by the State Government. It accommodates 104 lepers with six wards for men and six wards for women or married lepers.

*C M S Zenana Hospital* It contains a large staff of European lady doctors and nurses and is maintained by fees, subscriptions and voluntary donations. This is located on the road to Nasim Bagh some 2 miles off from Civil Lines.

*Civil Veterinary Hospital* This is a Government Hospital under a well qualified Veterinary Surgeon. The animals are treated free of charge. It is situated near Sri Partap College,  
Government Band Lines

## Srinagar Markets

Maharaj Ranbir Gunj popularly known as Maharaj Gunj situated a little down the fourth bridge has been the famous trade centre of wholesale business. It was ruined by the mob agitation of 1931 and Amarakadal (the first bridge) has taken its place and has much developed as a central mart and emporium of trade. Also there are some decent shops in the Civil Lines on the Bund (River embankment) where high class materials, English provisions, Kashmir Novelties etc are sold. Down the sixth bridge on the left bank of the Jhelum is a Bonded Warehouse known as Yarkandi Sarai where Yarkand traders do wholesale business in the products of their country such as carpets, numdas (floor cloth)

## Amusement in Srinagar

**Srinagar Club.** It caters chiefly for the amusement of Europeans. It remains open throughout the year and provides all recreational amenities. It is located on the right bank of the Jhelum near the Residency about 3 furlongs above the First Bridge. It contains a well equipped library, a beautiful assembly hall and a billiard room. Attached to it are six excellent tennis courts and an 18 hole golf course behind Nedou's Hotel. Dances are held from April to October. For membership, temporary or permanent, the Honorary Secretary should be consulted.

**Cinemas** There are two Cinema houses. The Regal Talkies are located in Civil Lines on the Residency Road and the other, the Palladium, is at Amarakadal.



G D B

YOUNG SCOUTS

KASHMIR



R C A

KASHMIRI GIRLS & BOYS





*State Exhibition* There is annually held an exhibition at Srinagar usually in the month of August. It is worth a visit. It is intended to encourage the arts and crafts of Kashmir and to provide opportunity for exchange of ideas on commerce, industries, agriculture etc. The exhibits consist of many things grouped under sections of agriculture, horticulture, live stock, pisciculture, sericulture, minerals, forest products, archaeology, history, education, carving, textiles, jewellery, etc. Within the exhibition grounds, various amusements such as Band music, Cinema and Indian theatre, mountain slides, cycling wave, radio etc. are provided.

There are also golf courses attached to the Club and Nedou's hotel and a polo ground centrally located between Nedou's Hotel and Residency Road in Civil Lines. Besides these, there are charming walks, natural scenery, lake trips and gardens.

### **Educational Institutions in Srinagar**

*Sri Partap College* Adjacent to Nedou's Hotel are the commodious buildings of Sri Partap College. This was founded by the late Maharaja Partap Singh. The College is affiliated with the Punjab University.

*Government Schools* There are three High Schools, and a High School for girls and two Normal Schools for training teachers of both sexes. There is an Islamia High School maintained by public donations and aided by the government.

*C M S High School* This is a Mission High School situated on the left bank of the Jhelum near the

3rd bridge This was started by Canon C E Tyndale Biscoe, the first Principal Visitors will be delighted to see regattas which are held every Tuesday at Gagribal The school is open to visitors on Thursdays at 11 a m

### Carpet Factories

*Hadow Carpet Factory* It manufactures Indo Persian carpets It was established by Mr C M Hadow in 1888 and is located on the outskirts of Srinagar on the south

*Mitchel's carpet factory* It is located near the 3rd bridge in the city The factory can be reached by river or road

*Kailas Carpet Co* It is situated in Nawabazar near 5th bridge The factory can be reached by motor or tonga

### Small gardens in Srinagar

*Munshi-Bagh* It is a Chinar garden near Sonawar-Bagh about a mile from 1st Bridge which was formerly a good camping ground but now contains His Highness' guest house and Resident's houses There is the famous 'All Saints Church' located in this garden

*Chinar Bagh.* Here are cool and shady encampment grounds but the surroundings are unhealthy This is also a favourite place for mooring house boats on its bank It is located near Dal Gate and behind the Nedous' Hotel

*Sheikh Bagh* Here is a small cemetery located over the Bund. Inside is a beautiful statue which re-

*Errata*—The C M S School was founded by the Rev. J.H.Knowles and not by Canon C E Tyndale

minds one of the terrible fate which will befall all mortals

*Kothi Bagh.* This is almost replaced by good uptodate shops over the Bund where everything of the modern requirements as well as Kashmir novel-ties can be purchased

*Sonawar Bagh* It is now a reserved garden of His Highness It is situated on the right bank of the Jhelum 2 miles from First bridge

*Partap Park.* It is a well kept park and is situated in Amirakadal, first bridge on the road to Kothi Bagh

### **Gurudwara**

This is situated on the jail road near Hari Parbat hill about 3 miles from Amirakadal This was built in memory of Guru Govind Singh, the sixth Guru of the Sikh faith This institution is managed by a committee Regular assembly of the Sikhs takes place on Sundays

### **Arya-Samaj**

There are four Arya-Samaj associations in Srinagar Of them, two are prominent which are located in Hazuri Bagh near 1st Bridge

### **Central Jail**

This is located at the foot of Hariparbat Hill on its eastern side It is worth a visit Permission should be received from the Chief Medical Officer. Here paper, carpets, and coarse cloth are manufactured The lunatic and leper asylums are near here

### **Granaries.**

The colossal wooden granaries are located at Gulab Bagh near the Secretariat buildings. These are worth a visit. They were established by the government to store food stuffs in order to check the monopoly of trade and to keep a fair standard of prices.

### **Fruits Preservation Works**

This factory, known as 'Madans' Kashmir Fruits Preservation Works' was started by Messrs Madan & Sons, Srinagar in 1925. The fruits are preserved by the latest methods. Jams, jellies, crystallised fruits etc. are prepared. Distillation of wine and liqueurs has also been started since 1929. The factory is located at the 5th mile near Nishat Bagh and can be visited by previous appointment with the proprietor.

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U L P H.

SHIKARA RIDE ON THE DAL



U L P H.

A BANK OF THE DAL.

## CHAPTER VII

### CHIEF EXCURSIONS FROM SRINAGAR

#### The Moghul Gardens

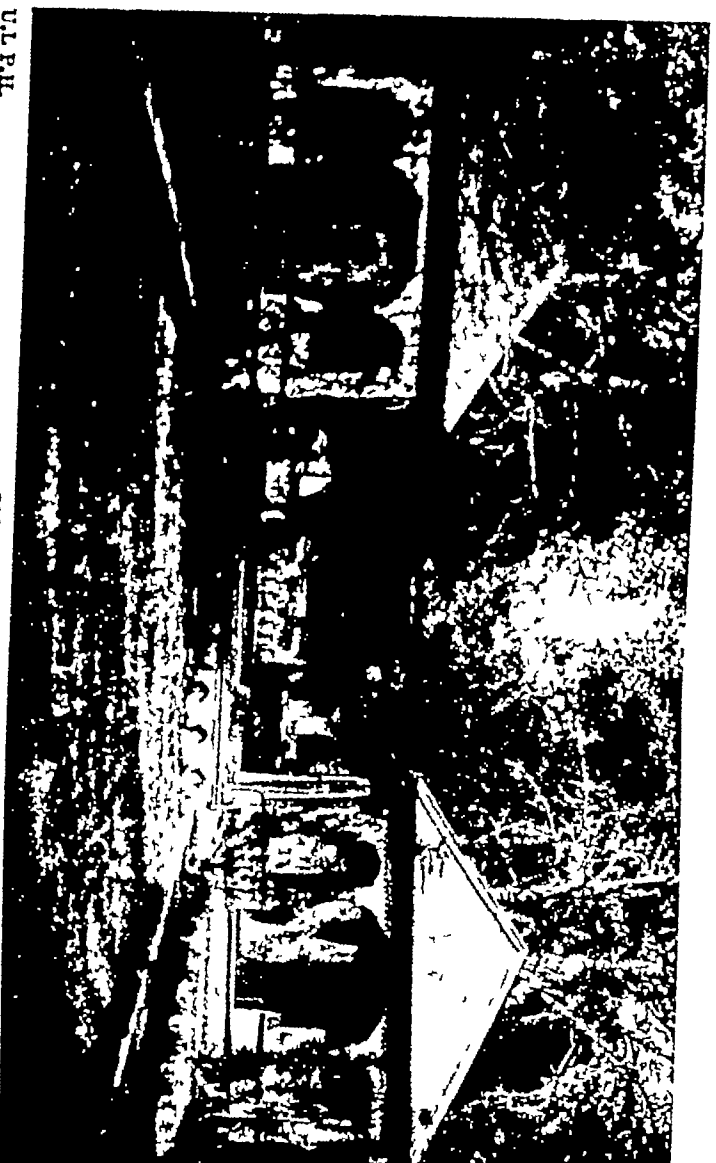
THE gardens of the great Moghuls built after moghul style have been described as emblematic of paradise. It is without doubt that in former days, their pomp and grandeur must have been very grand and fascinating. Even today, Shalamar and Nishat are a veritable Eden-Land, resplendent with the choicest flowers of the earth and resonant with the murmur of magic fountains and with ambrosial breezes and a scenery of melancholy beauty and glory. The fountains, as a rule, are run on Sundays only.



Sanatan Dharam Pratap Bhawan, Polo ground, Nedous Hotel, Durga-Nag, Gupkar road, Badami Bagh, New Palaces of His Highness The Maharaja, Vine-yard, Parimahal near Chasma Shahi, Chasma Shahi garden Fruits Preserve Works, Nishat Bagh, Nishat Paddy Farm, Pratap Model Farm where experiments on agricultural problems are carried out and seeds of cereals, vegetables etc are sold, Shalamar Bagh and 3 miles beyond is Harwan lake and Trout Culture Farm with some Archaeological Excavations near Harwan You will be much delighted with a visit to the Trout Culture Farm.

When you take a river journey and the start is made from 1st Bridge, you will come across Secretariat, Chinar-Bagh, Dal-gate, Ranawari, being the greatest social centre of Kashmiri Brahmans, Hazrat-bal, Nasim Bagh, Island of Gold (*Sonalanka*) centrally located in the Big Dal and island of Silver (*Rupalanka*) in the small Dal where most of the visitors enjoy picnic parties and Shalamar, Nishat and Chashma Shahi Gardens While coming back from Chashma Shahi, you will see the guest house (popularly called Kabutar-khana) a beautiful building in the Dal and when following the other route on instruction to the boatmen, you will come across Gagribal below Shankeracharya hill, Munshi Bagh and sites over the Bund or River Embankment such as Srinagar Club, General Post office, Modern Marts and emporiums, Lal Mundi and the First Bridge When going to these gardens, an early start is recommended





U.L.P.H.

SHALAMAR GARDEN

SRINAGAR



in front of the garden Three miles to the north is Harwan Lake

### Nishat Bagh

This garden right on the edge of the Dal Lake is a garden of numerous terraces, beautiful lawns, myriads of flowers and fountains A stream of water flows down the successive terraces and by a clever arrangement of masonry, miniature cascades are formed which add greatly to the beauty of the whole garden The uppermost terraces command a very fine panoramic view of the Dal lake and imposing mountains in the background A very large number of people visit the garden on Sundays The Persian poet has rightly said that if there is any paradise on earth, it is this

*Agar Firdaus bar rue Zaminast*

*Haminasto haminasto haminast*

'Nishat was laid out by Asif Khan, the prime-minister of Jehangir On visiting this garden, one will surely appreciate it which is often described and held to be as one having no rival in the world and deserves the name, the 'garden of gladness'

### Chashma Shahi

The splendid spring of Chashma Shahi stands at the base of a hill, five miles off Srinagar This is enclosed by a small garden which was laid out after the moghul plan by Shah Jahan in 1632 This is a small but well kept garden and at the end of the enclosure is the famous water spring oozing out through

NISHAT GARDAN





a stone pipe making bubbling sounds. The water has been tested and found to possess a highly digestive property. Most of the visitors come here with their meals. On Sundays, the fountains are made to run when the visit to it becomes more charming. The climate of this place is excellent. It commands a beautiful view of the Dal lake and its environments.

Since 1931 camping has not been allowed within 400 yards of the confines of the walls of Chashma Shahi. There is another water spring, '*Salubi Chashma*' about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  furlongs from Chashma Shahi near the village of Durbagh and is said to be similar to Chashma-shahi. One can pitch tents here. Tourists may encamp at the villages of Thid Bagh, Durbagh and Chashmi Shahi and also can arrange houses on rent at Thid Bagh if preferred. These villages are within a mile from Chashma Shahi. Two miles beyond is Nishat.

### Harwan Lake.

This lake of clean and pure water set in among the mountains with its dark green water reflecting the lofty peaks of Mahadeo is one of the prettiest sheets of water in Kashmir. Its surroundings have some of the best natural scenery found in the vicinity of Srinagar. The lake forms the reservoir of the Srinagar City water works.

The reservoir measures 2100 feet long, 1000 ft. wide and a maximum depth of 30 ft. and was constructed by the late Maharaja Partap Singh. The original source of this lake is Tarsar Lake in the Amar Nath mountains but this was constructed



and making embankments. There is no human habitation and cultivation and even grazing is disallowed within the catchment area of 150 sq miles around the reservoir lake in order to safeguard contamination of water for a city like Srinagar which is liable to epidemics like cholera

There is a covered masonry canal from this lake winding through the mountain slopes to the Nishat service reservoir. A little distance below the Harwan lake are the hatcheries where trout breeding is carried on. A visit to it will prove very delightful.

### Distance of above Sites

Sites	From Amira-Kadal	From Nedous Hotel
Gupkar	2 miles	1 mile
Chashmashahi	5 "	4 miles
Nishat	7 "	6 "
Model Farm	8 "	7 "
Shalamar	9 "	8 "
Trout Farm	11½ "	10½ "
Harwan Lake	12 "	11 "

### Dal Lake

This is the most beautiful sweet water lake in Kashmir backed by an amphitheatre of mountains on three sides. On the foot of these mountains and surrounding the lake lie numerous villages, orchards, and Moghul gardens with a pretty metalled road running by the side of the lake from Srinagar to Harwan Lake.

The lotus bloom over the pretty lake in the early summer is the most charming. The Dal Gate is a

favourite place for the mooring of house boats Here one can enjoy a splendid scene of house boats of different shapes plying on the placid waters amidst fine surroundings Gagribal in the Dal offers delightful swimming in its clear water The bathing boats are equipped with diving-boards, spring-boards and dressing rooms There are plenty of fish, water-fowl and wild-duck in the Dal water

The Dal measures 5 miles from north to south and 2 miles from east to west It is in parts shallow and marshy and in other parts deeper with clear water everywhere Towards the open flat are floating gardens, these being one of the main features of the lake At some places, it will interest you to witness aquatic plants in the clear water The causeways and projecting marsh lands divide the lake into three portions , (a) Nagin Bagh lake between Ranawari and Nasim Bagh, (b) Bod Dal (Big Dal) between Nasim Bagh and Shalamar and (c) Lokut Dal (Small Dal) between Nishat and Shankeracharya hill

The lake draws its supply of water from neighbouring streams and springs and collects the rain water of the surroundings and releases the same into the Jhelum through the Dal gate which prevents an inrush of the Jhelum water during floods On a windy day, it is a bit dangerous for the shikaras to go into the central Dal

### **Land that is Stolen**

There are small fields in the Dal on which grow melons and vegetables When you visit Kashmir you will be entertained with lots of fantastic stories

of the theft of these fields The fields are so apparently alike that when a theft has occurred it is very difficult to trace the property The tenants often steal them at dead of night by tugging them away with their boats

As a matter of fact, these fields are made up by an accumulation of earth and vegetable deposits over the aquatic plants and are movable There is a state official posted for the administration and collection of revenue of these fields.

### **Nasim Bagh**

It is a fine park-like expanse thickly studded with shady chenar trees, situated 5 miles off from Srinagar on the banks of the Dal lake The breeze, whence the name of the Nasim Bagh is derived, is very pleasant. There is no other more delightful camping ground at Srinagar for the early months of the summer before the attack of mosquitoes Yachts have also been built here Nasim Bagh commands a splendid view of the Dal lake in front

Akbar, the contemporary of Elizabeth, built this garden and the masonry terraces and fountains have now disappeared Close to Nasim Bagh is a village and an oil manufactory At this corner of the lake flows in Telbal or rather the Arrah river which is good for navigation upto 2 miles and provides good fishing

### **Ancient Monuments at Srinagar.**

*Pandrethan* The temple of Pandrethan has a classically sculptured dome which resembles grecian architecture and is worth a visit It was built during



R.C.A.

SAFFRON FLOWERS ARE WEIGHED



R.C.A.

CHASHMASHAH GARDEN

SRINAGAR

11  
12  
13  
14  
15

the reign of King Partha, 921 A D and was dedicated to God Shiva by Meru, the Chief Minister of Partha. The temple stands in a tank enclosure and is 9 feet each way. At present, the image is not clearly visible and the carvings in the temple are not distinguishable.

The temple is 4 miles from Srinagar on Jammu Road. It is generally held that the old city of Srinagar was in its neighbourhood and the word, 'Pandrethan' literally meaning old capital confirms the assumption.

*Pari Mahal* A massive building in ruinous state stands about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Srinagar on a spur of the mountain ranges visible from Nishat Road. It is held to have been built during the reign of the Moghuls for astronomical observations. A path leads to Pari Mahal from Chashma Shahi (forest) Rukh and permission to enter it should be obtained from the Controller, Shikarkhana, His Highness Government, Srinagar.

*Harwan Excavation* Recent excavation at Harwan, 12 miles from Srinagar, has revealed one of the oldest monuments in Kashmir dating to about 300 A D. A temple and some tables are excavated which belong to Kushan period when Kashmir was closely connected with Central Asia.

*Tomb of Zain-ul-Abadin* Just near the Maharaj Gunj at the 4th Bridge is an enclosure which contains the tomb of Zain ul-Abadin, a King of Kashmir. It is built of bricks. There are some interesting fragments and inscriptions of Pali characters, the oldest in Kashmir and first discovered by Rev. Dr. Abbott.

*Pathar Masjid.* This is an abandoned mosque built by the Empress Nurjahan. It is situated on the left bank of the Jhelum. It was under the control of the State but was given back to the Muslims in 1931.

*Bad Shah's Dome.* It is situated on the right bank of the Jhelum a little down from Shah Hamdan's Mosque. It originally belonged to the Buddhists when Buddhism was the prevailing religion in India.

*Dara's Mosque and Hammam.* The Mosque of Dara Shikoh and the Hammam (bath) of Akbar are situated on the southern slope of Hari Parbat Hill.

### Saffron of Kashmir

Kashmir Saffron is held to be the best of all saffron grown in the world. It is superior in quality to that of Italy and Morocco. The flowers of saffron bloom at the end of October when it is enchanting to be near them and the perfumed breeze passing through the saffron fields is exceedingly pleasant. On the full moon nights the people assemble there and enjoy music. A notion is quite fondly held by the neighbouring villagers that they never have maladies like headache and cough and cold.

The saffron fields are finely cultivated and are divided into small plots. Each plot is a bit raised above the level of the ground. The seeds are sown and these last for three years. The next three years are left fallow. Nothing grows over these fields except saffron. The plant of saffron is very small, its stems are tender and remain in the soil and the only part visible above the ground is the flower. The







flowers are plucked after they are sufficiently open. The stamens and styles of the flower are carefully taken out and these make saffron. The tri-partite red stigma is what is called real saffron.

Saffron is grown a few miles below and above the village of Pampur, 8 miles from Srinagar on Pahalgam road. Pampur is situated on the banks of the Jhelum and can be reached by motor, tonga or boat. Below the town are good camping grounds.

In the State of Kashmir, saffron also grows in Kistwar but that is much inferior and less in quantity. It is the Pampur saffron which is the best. Buyers should always be on the watch for adulteration as this is very skilfully carried on.

### Ganderbal

Ganderbal possesses beautiful camping grounds. Its climate is bracing and healthy. The water of Bi-Huma Springs is digestive. It is also a good place for mooring house boats on the banks of the river. Above all, the beautiful scenery of the landscape, the broad expanse of water which meets the eye from every point of the place throws you back into a state of thoughtfulness as you ponder—on the mighty Sind that flows past Ganderbal.

Ganderbal is a small village situated on the banks of the River Sind, 12½ miles from Srinagar by road. It is at the mouth of the Sind Valley and is the starting place for the marches up.

There is a dispensary and a post and telegraph office. Trips to Khurbhawani, Manash, and

Ashteng Hill can be made from here. There are three routes for Ganderbal, (a) *via* Shadipur through the River Jhelum, (b) *via* Mar Canal and (c) by motor road. The first is recommended if you intend to see Wular Lake *enroute*. The second is a direct water route. On the third one you come across Anchar Lake.

### **Khirbhawani**

It is the most important shrine of the Kashmiri Brahmans. It is a small temple situated in the centre of a small tank around which there is a platform under a few large shady trees. It is held by people that whenever any calamity befalls the State of Kashmir the water of the tank changes colour into red, green, blue and black. The black colour is ominous of a calamity which is certain. The Hindus have a great reverence for this shrine. Here they sing Vedic hymns, do *Hom* and distribute food to the poor. Big festivals take place on the *astims* of Jeth and Ashar which correspond to the months of June and July, when Hindus from all parts of Kashmir come here on pilgrimage. It is said that many Europeans have thought over the phenomenon of changing of colours of the water but so far they have not been able to probe into the mystery. Whether it is a mystery or a chemical phenomenon, no one has up to this day solved the mystery that surrounds this phenomenon.

It is 16 miles from Srinagar and 3 miles further from Ganderbal. It can be reached by motor and boat.

## Anchar Lake

This is a large lake measuring  $5 \times 2$  miles situated about 6 miles off from Srinagar. It offers good shooting of snipe and duck in winter. It is in greater part marshy and weedy with green lotus leaves on it and with chestnut trees on its banks.

It can be reached by (a) Shikara through Mar Canal, (b) by Ganderbal metalled road and (c) through the branches of the Sind river from Shadipur or from Ganderbal. On the eastern side of the lake is the village of Vicharnag where there is a holy shrine of Hindus.

## Manasbal Lake

This is a beautiful lake in the Sind Valley, Kashmir, surrounded by majestic hills and fine scenery. Younghusband has remarked that this is "the supreme gem of all Kashmir Lakes" and according to Mrs. Villiers Stuart this is "the loneliest and loveliest of Kashmir lakes". Though it is a small lake being circular in shape with a diameter of about 2 miles, it is pretty. Dr. A. Neve observes that "lotus is nowhere more abundant or beautiful than on the margins of this lake". In its neighbourhood are a good many fruit gardens and orchards. One can also have good fishing at Sumbal.

There is a nice camping ground a little up from the lake near the cave of a muslim recluse which is worth a visit. There is a temple imbedded in the soil on the shore of the lake of which only the roof is visible.

at present A large quantity of lime is obtained in the valley from the hills at Kundbal which contains fossil limestone There is a Darogha Bagh on the north shore of the lake. It is an extensive terraced garden and was built by Jehangir for his wife, Nurjahan

### Wular Lake

This is the largest fresh water lake in India, perhaps in the whole of Asia Golden rays of the setting sun on the vast sheet of water present a most fascinating scene The lake is irregular in shape and shallow on the sides but sufficiently broad and wide The deepest part is towards the low hill of Baba Shakruddin on the top of which is the shrine of that saint Approximately, it is 14 miles broad in summer and 7 miles in winter but during the rains it touches the villages in the far off neighbourhood Dredging has considerably limited it in area When you go into the Wular on boats, please don't get obsessed with the loveliness of it—bear in mind that gliding in boats in the Wular is not always safe in the day, for a heavy wind blows at times and generally comes upon you without notice Always make a point of crossing the lake in the early part of the day Surrounding the lake are the Harmukh Mountains The lake derives its water from the Jhelum and a number of hill streams At Sopore the River Jhelum leaves the Wular on her journey to Hindustan

There is an artificial island in the lake which was built by King Zainuddin and this had temples and



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WULAR LAKE,

KASHMIR

G D, B



U L P H,

A LANDSCAPE ON



palaces erected on it but all of them are now in ruins. On the north west side of the Lake there is a curious bubbling spring about which the Kashmiri folk have various stories. You will also see in the lake green lotus leaves which enhance its beauty.

There are two routes to the Wular, one by river and the other by road. The former is charming and the latter does not evoke much interest and also you do not come across places of interest except Sopore. If you choose to go by river, start from Chhatabal Weir, Srinagar, a place down the 6th bridge on the Jhelum. Wular is 22 miles from Srinagar and the journey will take two full days and a night to reach the lake, but it may take more time if you go about leisurely. The journey may be commenced either in a dunga or in a houseboat. The dunga goes quicker because of the lightness of its construction. At a distance of two miles from Weir you arrive at Shaltange whence in another ten miles is Shadipore. The journey is interesting throughout.

Shadipur is situated on the bank of the River Sind. This is also the confluence of the Sind and the Jhelum. From Shadipur there is a short cut to Wular Lake *via* Nuru Canal which joins the river at the 8th mile from here. At the sixth mile is Sumbal, a village, whence another small canal has been constructed joining with the Mansabal Lake. Both at Shadipur and at Sumbal there are good camping grounds. And on your way to Wular if you intend to visit Ganderbal, Khirbhawan and Manasbal Lake *enroute* you must instruct the boatman accordingly, otherwise he is quite likely to take a different



which may not agree with your choice. You can also go from Baramulla by boat to Shadipur and thence to the Wular as above

It can be reached by road after travelling on Srinagar Murree Road upto the 26th mile and leaving this for Sopore. From Sopore, Wular is 10 miles and the road is unmetalled but fit for cars except immediately after the rains. Another route leaves the main road at the 5th mile from Srinagar and crossing the Jhelum at Sumbal and passing Manasbal Lake reaches Wular. It is 14 miles from Manasbal, road beyond which should not be attempted during the rains

### **Woin**

Here is a sulphur spring, the water of which acts as a balm to those suffering from intestinal diseases. Woin is situated a little before Pampur on a side road. The way has ups and downs. Vehicles have to be very carefully driven. There are good camping grounds where tents can be pitched. Milk, eggs, flour etc. are available in good quantities.

### **Khru**

It is 3 miles beyond Woin and is 14 miles from Srinagar by road and can be reached in a car. It is a small village situated on a hill. The temple of Jwaladevi can be reached through a staircase of nearly 200 steps. A big fair is annually held on the 14th day of Har which corresponds to a certain date in the month of July, when Kashmiri Brahmans from all parts of the Valley assemble there. There is also

a sulphur spring like that of Woin Attached to the temple is a Dharamshala for pilgrims

### Nagmarg

There is a nice grassy meadow on the summit of the mountains overlooking the Wular Lake and is enclosed by pine forests It is in many respects similar to Gulmarg It is a favourite resort of Europeans and Gujars (shepherds) The water supply is a small spring There is a pleasant encampment at Koebal A day's excursion to Traghbal Pass may be made from here The path leads through the cattle track

Nagmarg is 7 miles from Alsu which can be reached from Bandipur situated on the shores of Watar Lake, 35 miles from Srinagar

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### GULMARG AND SONMARG.

#### Gulmarg

**G**ULMARG is a glorious mountain retreat and a charming abode of holiday makers. It bears a wonderful resemblance to Scotland as its climate is as near to that of Scotland as one could imagine. In winter time, the conditions at Gulmarg are very similar to those found in Switzerland. There is the same dry cold and sunshine essential for winter sports in both places, the only difference is that skiing and skating in Kashmir are done at a higher altitude. Unlike the Swiss woods the trees are beautifully spaced from the skier's point of view. Gulmarg is beautifully situated amidst the snow-capped mountains of the Pir Punjal at 8,500 feet above the sea level.

Gulmarg is immensely superior to other Himalayan hill stations in its lovely scenery and is regarded as the "Queen of all Indian hill stations". The flowers in Gulmarg are the loveliest in Kashmir and it deserves the name, the "Meadow of Roses" given to it. There are rolling hillocks on either side with beautiful pine trees, with the well known pretty Circular Road, 7 miles long, running through them. It commands a



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good panoramic view across the valley, the Wular lake and the snow-capped ridges beyond. The snowy peaks of Nanga Parbat, 27,000 ft. high and 90 miles to the north from Gulmarg is admirably seen from here and will fascinate those who have seen Kinchinjunga from Darjeeling

Gulmarg boasts of two wonderful 18 hole golf-links, regarded as the best in the whole of Asia. There is ample level ground for race-course, polo and tennis. Gulmarg has also the well-known "Gulmarg Dramatic Society" which is reputed for the high standard of its production. The theatre is situated in the premises of Nedou's Hotel. There is a Club known as 'Gulmarg Club' equipped with a good library and spacious club rooms and with extremely good catering arrangements. The membership is exclusively confined to Anglo Indians.

There are charming walks, pleasant pony rides on the roads through some of the most picturesque scenery of the surrounding woods. To add to the series of amusements, a cinema has also been opened.

The climate of Gulmarg is invigorating and healthy with changing weather. In the early months of summer, it is cool and pleasant. During the rains the showers are sudden and frequent and this mars the charms of trips. In September and October the weather is splendid. During the summer season, officially announced from 15th May to 15th October, Gulmarg is a good summer resort and is thronged with thousands of visitors and by the end of October it is deserted, due to bitter cold and early snow until a break is made by winter sports.

During winter from December to April, Gulmarg is a pleasant playground of such winter sports as skiing, skating, tobogganing etc. The Ski Club of India organises the winter sports at Gulmarg with handsome challenge cups in December, January and March. It holds two big sports meetings every year, one during X'mas week and the other in March. Races are run for numerous cups including one which was donated by His Excellency Viscount Willingdon.

One of the special features of Gulmarg is that one can go about in numerous meadows above and below it. They are pretty and even some prettier than Gulmarg but none are so suitable like a general hill station such as Gulmarg. Most of them contain lakes or ponds, the largest being that of Konsar Nag.

There is a branch of the Imperial Bank of India, and Lloyds Bank Ltd. There are Post and Telegraph offices, telephone, electric light, police station, a church and a dispensary under an assistant surgeon. There are shops dealing with country and English provisions.

### How to get to Gulmarg

*From Rawalpindi Direct* The direct way to reach Gulmarg is by cart road from Rawalpindi whence one can start in a car in the morning and reach Gulmarg the same day. Please consult Murree Route. Beyond Baramulla, a road turns to the right for Gulmarg which is about 18 miles.

*From Srinagar via Tangmarg.* This is a generally preferred route. The first 25 miles are travelled on a car or lorry and the remaining 3 miles on ponies.

or on foot, which are very pleasant. There are two stages on this route—Magam and Tangmarg. The former is a small village, 14 miles from Srinagar and possesses a small Dak Bungalow. The latter is the terminal point of vehicular traffic towards Gulmarg. There are motor garages and a small bazar and a sanatorium for T B patients. Here you will meet a large number of ponies and coolies.

*From Shadipur via Palhallen.* Shadipur is reached by boat, six hours journey from Srinagar. Palhallen is a small village near Pattan, a stage between Baramulla and Srinagar. Here the temples are worth a visit. After Pattan, a stream is crossed and Baramulla Road is left. The path is steep onwards. Several villages are passed. After 14 miles, Babamarishi is reached (see excursions from Gulmarg). A bridle path leads to Gulmarg. After 3 miles, the Circular Road is crossed and enters the market of Gulmarg. There is also another path through beautiful woods but it is 2 miles longer.

*From Sopore via Kontara.* Sopore to Kontara is 14 miles. The road crosses the Srinagar Baramulla Road and passes the villages of Naopur, Wogra, Minnegam etc. Kontara is a good camping ground. Kontara to Gulmarg is 8 miles. Road is steep. It passes a pretty glen called Nambalnar. This route joins the Palhallen route at Babamarishi (see above).

*From Baramulla via Kontara.* Baramulla to Kontara is 9 miles. Near Gohan, the path is steep. After Shimlaran, it descends gradually into a nullah and opposite to it is Kontara. See Sopore route for onward journey.



*From Rampur, 22 miles* The first stage is Camp (Somar Ali), 12 miles. Naushehra comes at the 5th mile on the cart-road. Upward path is steep and goes through forests. On the top, 9,500 ft, is a large meadow suitable for camping. Gulmarg is 10 miles from here with ups and downs passing through meadows and streams. At half way, the path, leaving Lilanmarg on the right side, enters Gulmarg below Dhobi Ghat.

### **Where to stay at Gulmarg**

Gulmarg offers you comfortable accommodation in the shape of hotels, wooden bungalows, tents and boarding-houses. There is a Nedou's Hotel for Europeans. It is also specially opened during the season of winter sports. There is a Hindu Khalsa Hotel run under efficient management. There are several boarding houses on the paying guest system run by Europeans. There are numerous wooden bungalows which may be hired through agencies in Gulmarg or Srinagar or the Divisional Engineer, Kashmir Division, Srinagar. Their rent varies according to the standard of equipment from Rs 100 to 1,000 for the season. Tents can also be pitched on sites allotted by Divisional Engineer, Kashmir Division, Srinagar. (See page 31). One can also encamp at Khullenmarg, Baba Marshi etc.

### **Excursions from Gulmarg**

*Khullenmarg.* It is a vast plain studded with flowers of Alpine grandeur. A refreshing ice cool breeze blows from the surrounding snow clad mountains. Here are found old beds of frozen snow where

one may enjoy tobogganing upto July      Excellent skiing is obtained upto early spring      It is three hour's journey on foot from Gulmarg      There are several paths to Khillenmarg but the best is the one which starts from south-east of Nedou's Hotel. The other starts from Dhobi ghat      Tourists may also go straight from Tangmarg, while the ravines above Khillenmarg are full of snow, one can reach Gulmarg by glissading in 25 minutes      From Khillenmarg, the view across the valley is excellent

*Apharwat*      This mountain towers above Khillenmarg at 14,000 ft above the sea-level and takes 2 hours from Khillenmarg      There is a beautiful blue lake on its summit      One can ride to Khillenmarg and thence climb Apharwat on foot

*Allopathar*      It is a little meadow, 10 miles from Gulmarg      Its trip takes 3 hours      Skating may be enjoyed here      The path is a bit slippery      From here, the view across the valley is excellent

*Gagrimarg*      Above Allopathar, Gagrimarg is a grassy valley      It is two hours journey from Allopathar      There are small lakes called Gagrinag

*Ferozpur Valley.*      This is a pleasant valley to the south of Gulmarg and is a nice spot for encampment, picnic and fishing      A gradual descent of 1200 feet takes an hour and a quarter from Gulmarg. A pretty path leads in an hour and a quarter to where the valley opens      The springs from Apharwat ranges form a stream through the valley which is named after Ferozpur and it may be seen here burro

its way under snow masses which form picturesque snow caverns This is best seen in June The path to the west leads to Ferozpur passes and Poonch

*Banibali Nag* High up the Ferozpur valley is this small lake at 9,600 feet It is 5 hours journey from Gulmarg From here, one can return to Gulmarg *via* Khullenmarg Up the valley, the path joins Ferozpur route One can make a round tour in about 8 hours

*Kontarnag.* South east of Banibali Nag is situated this lakelet on the top of the mountain (13,250 feet) whence the view of Poonch is obtained The trip takes two days First day, the camp should be pitched up the ravine above forest limit at 11,500 ft The next day, lakelet and pass may be visited and should return to Gulmarg

*Baba Marishi* It is a pleasant camping ground at 7,000 feet and is good for those for whom Gulmarg is too high Here is a large shrine named after an ascetic Baba Pam Din who flourished during the time of the Delhi Emperors Attached to it is a large building for the pilgrims There is also a small room for European travellers See page 73 for route

*Toshmaidan* This is one of the most beautiful margs or meadows of Kashmir The path is through the Ferozpur nullah or valley and takes 3 days in going and 2 days in returning First camp Dan was, 2nd camp Tejjan, 3rd camp Toshmaidan Returning camp Danwas. From Toshmaidan cattle tracks lead into Poonch

### Sonmarg

It is a beautiful spot situated amidst a picturesque landscape at 8,750 feet high above the sea-level. According to Dr A Neve, it is difficult to find a lovelier spot in Kashmir. It has been from many years past a famous sanatorium in Kashmir. Sonmarg resembles Gulmarg in many respects but the former is a bit colder and not easily accessible. Its climate is very bracing. The rainfall is frequent, though not heavy but it is heavier from May to September than Gulmarg. Sonmarg has ample beautiful camping grounds and the best are at the mouth of the glacier valley. Thajiwas is also a good camping site. There is a serai with a couple of rooms for special class travellers and a post and telegraph office. The best time to encamp here is from middle of June to middle of September. The pleasant walks in Sonmarg are towards the green hill of Shakdar to the north west of Thajiwas bridge and to Zahwar Ridge. One can catch snow trout in the river at Sonmarg.

From Sonmarg a visit to Zojila Pass can be made which is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Baltal, the last stage of the Sind Valley. One can also go to Amar Nath Cave and Kolahoi glacier in the Liddar valley. The best time for these trips is May and June.

Sonmarg is 50 miles from Srinagar and can be reached from Ganderbal. See Ganderbal and Sind Valley.

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## CHAPTER IX.

### PAHALGAM AND AMARNATH.

#### Pahalgam

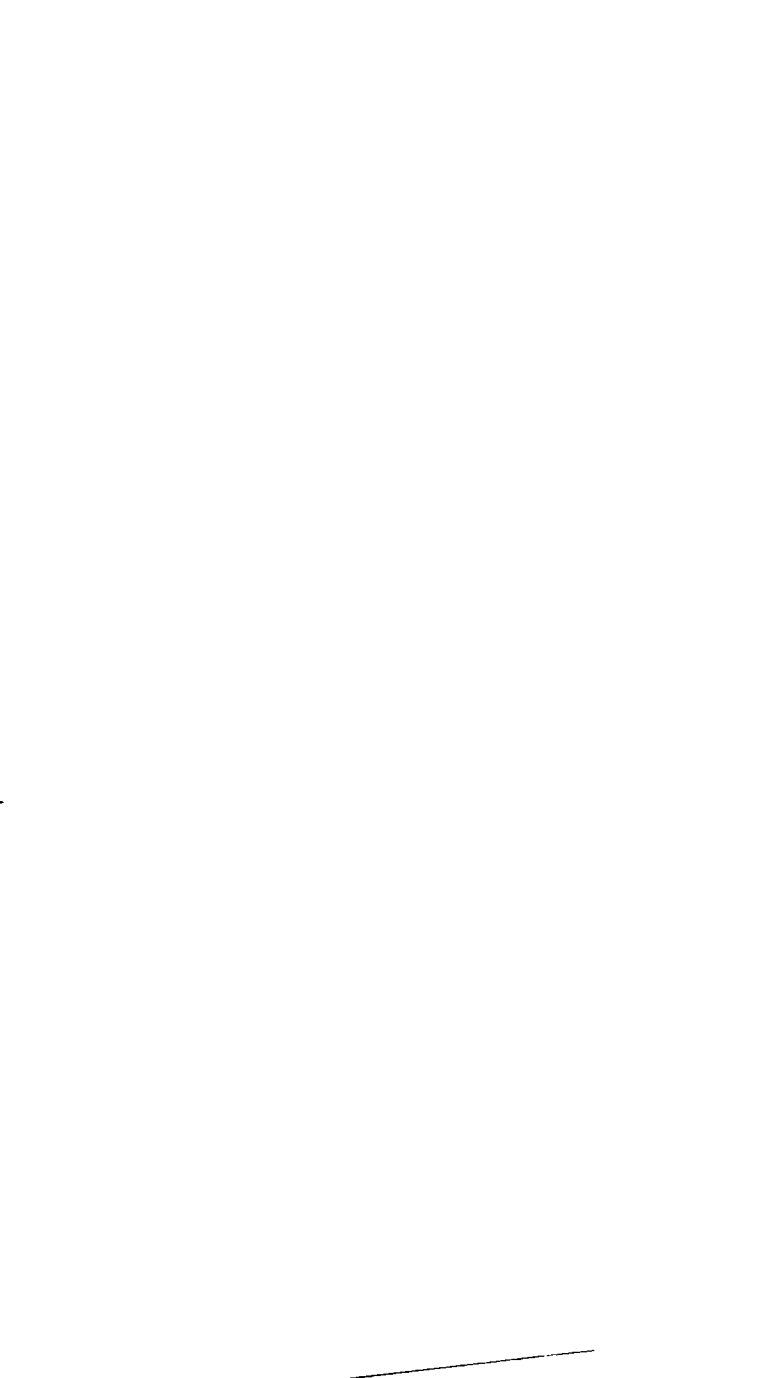
**P**AHALGAM is a splendid summer resort and the second famous sanatorium of Kashmir at 7,200 feet above the sea level right in the heart of Liddar Valley, the finest side valley of Kashmir. Pahalgam has a fine situation overlooking the main branch of the River Liddar and surrounded by tall precipitous hills thickly wooded with luxuriant vegetation. Its climate is invigorating and healthy. It provides excellent opportunities for riding, walking and fishing which form a great attraction for the visitors. Pahalgam is equally good for those English visitors to whom the endless gaieties and dissipations of Gulmarg make no special appeal and for whom Sonmarg is too cold, damp and distant.

Pahalgam is a splendid base of expeditions and excursions such as to Kolahoi Glacier, Sheishnag, Sona Sar, Amar Nath, Har Nag, Lidarwat where some of the best scenery of the Himalayas is found. Pahalgam is an important stage of the Amar Nath pilgrimage.

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A PANORAMIC VIEW OF PAHALGAM



Pahalgam possesses very fine camping grounds where pitching the tents underneath umbrageous pines is very delightful. A soft dustless breeze blows almost daily between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The water of the springs, (known as Col Ward's, at the foot of the dispensary is very good for drinking and the other at the foot of the forest rest house above Police station is also regarded as excellent. The river water is said to cause throat troubles when used for a long time.

There is a small market with marts of English and country provisions, a post and telegraph office, a dispensary and a little log Church, dedicated to St. George, in charge of the Chaplain, All Saints' Church, Srinagar. It is situated towards the hill side to the right of the far end of the bazar and is maintained by voluntary contributions. It is open for Christians of all denominations. The Pahalgam stream is very swift and care should be taken not to go very deep. Pahalgam is 61 miles from Srinagar and can be reached in 2 hours by a car or bus from Srinagar. It can also be reached direct from Jammu N.W.F. leaving the Banihal Cart road at Kramnabai, Anantnag and turning to the east in a day by car and 2 days by bus. Consult the Jammu Route.

#### Where to Stay at Pahalgam.

There is an European Hotel under European supervision situated on the right bank of the stream and there is a Hindu Khalsa Hotel. Visitors must prefer to stay in tents. The tents can be hired from any of the numerous agencies in Pahalgam.



There are five principal camping sites (1) Rajwasu plateaux across the Sheishnag stream, (2) below the Government Dispensary, (3) between post office and dispensary (4) river bank and (5) Maimal across the Liddar stream See page 34 also

### Excursions from Pahalgam

*Balsuran* This is a beautiful grassy meadow surrounded by hills covered with luxuriant vegetation above Pahalgam The pines are similar to those found in Gulmarg For Europeans, this is a splendid spot to be found in the neighbourhood of Pahalgam whence it is 3 miles up at about 8,000 ft There are a few shepherds' huts (Gujar) The water supply is a spring which is fairly good

*Tullan* Next three miles up from Balsuran is Tulian The scenery is very fine The path is steep and winding through woods One must have a coolie as a guide

*Aru* It is a charming place with a meadow at 9,000 ft The path presents picturesque scenery It is 7 miles from Pahalgam Near the bridge are good camping sites

*Liddarwat* The Liddar valley at Liddarwat opens more and is in places thickly wooded The path is steep It is 7 miles from Aru, alt 10,000 feet

*Kolahoi* Next 10 miles from Liddarwat is Kolahoi, the head of the Liddar valley and the base of Kolahoi Glacier at 11,200 feet Fuel is available The famous twin peaks of the Glacier, 17,827 ft. are seen from here, the view of which is very grand and magnificent One can go further up to 14,000 ft.

near the glacier and camp there The next day one can reach Sonmarg *via* Sarbal See "Side Valleys of Kashmir "

### **Amar Nath**

The landscapes, the mountain scenery, walks over the passes covered with perennial snow and the natural phenomena surrounding the journey to Amar Nath is a sight unrivalled and so remarkably different that hardly a parallel can be drawn or an explanation offered—as one sees it he knows it for himself more than he can describe it

Not for the sight alone, Amar Nath is a sacred place as one of the holiest of the shrines of India where Hindus from every nook and corner of the country make a pilgrimage once a year during August At Amar Nath is a grand cave—as large as a church—the mouth of which is 150 feet with the same dimensions in length and breadth situated at 12,792 feet high above the sea-level In the interior of the cave is an icicle on which are naturally formed images of the deities of Shiva, Parbatī and Ganesh They diminish gradually as the moon wanes and increase as the moon grows This phenomenon is repeated every month

Here, not a single tree or vestige of life is to be seen except crumbling hills and icy regions in front of one, beside, by one and behind one Swami Viveka Nand's biography narrates that the cave was "large enough to hold a cathedral and the great ice Shiva, in a niche of deepest shadow seemed as if throned on its own base " Meeting with his European

disciple he told her that "the very Lingam was the Lord Himself. It was all worship there I never had been to any thing so beautiful, so inspiring!" A visit to Amar Nath in August (Purnima) is regarded as sacred when pigeons are seen coming out of the cave and flying over it.

However, the phenomenon of images, the visit of pigeons and the cave itself dwell in the minds of the people and generally leave them puzzled. Of course this is an aftermath, the rapturous feeling with which every visitor looks at it and looks at the surrounding country and the mighty Himalayas standing in perpetual benediction to all mankind, it never occurs to anyone to dispute the credentials of what has been alleged to be true. One word may be enough here i.e., one who knows the Hindu mind will at once appreciate that it is quite usual. Along with the train of Hindu pilgrims many Europeans and Americans have been seen going to this place. The pilgrims first bathe in the sacred Amarganga (Amraoti) and go for *darshan* in the cave.

Amar Nath is 28 miles from Pahalgam and can be reached in 3 marches, first camp at Chandanwari or Tanin, second camp at Wayujan and third camp at Panchtarni. The path is steep. It becomes dangerous at the time of rainfall. All arrangements of ponies, tents, necessary provisions and heavy blankets should be made at Pahalgam.

In 1928 a good many lives were lost on the way to Amar Nath near Hatayara Talao due to showers of rain and insufficient bedding with the pilgrims. After-



AMARNATH CAVE AT THE TIME OF PILGRIMAGE



wards His Highness' Government constructed a new road from Chandanwari to Wayujan and during pilgrimage, arrange annually to erect temporary sheds, and pitch camps on the stages. Also a hospital, police and shops with necessary provisions move stage by stage with the pilgrims and His Highness' Government supply free food and fuel to the *sadhus*

*Chandanwari, 9 miles.* The road is steep but the scenery is nice. There is a good camping ground on the grassy meadow near the springs. There was an ice-bridge here which has melted away. Altitude 9,500 feet

*Sheishnag, 7 miles* The path gradually ascends. At one place it becomes very steep and is called "Pissu ghati" pissu (flea), a name aptly given because the climber is equally worried as often as we are from fleas. At the top of the ascent is Zoipal, a meadow, 5 miles from Chandanwari. Here the visitors will witness the indescribable beauty of the landscape, the silvery hill streams, and grassy lands.

There is a path to Sonasar lake from Zoipal which is near here. The lake is extremely beautiful.

At an altitude of 11,730 feet is the Sheishnag lake surrounded by hills on all four sides and the colour of the water is emerald blue. Orthodox Hindus bathe in this lake and perform religious rites. Juniper is the only fuel.

*Wayujan* It is a mile from Sheishnag and the stage of second camp. Wayujan literally means strong wind. This name is rightly ascribed as the wind

blows here very violently and sometimes tents are uprooted

*Panchtarni* It is 8 miles from Wayujan. There is a high ascent up to 14,000 feet and then a gradual descent but the scenery is beautiful throughout and visitors' eyes will constantly meet with meadows and flowers of a variety of colours and shapes. The presence of these flowers in the midst of snow peaks enhance the beauty verging on celestialness which can be more easily perceived than described. At length the tourists arrive at Panchtarni where five streams meet and flow on as Ramganga which joins the River Sind. There are a good many camping sites. Juniper is the only fuel but is scanty.

*Amar Nath, 4 miles* The next day early in the morning a return journey to Amar Nath should be made from Panchtarni. On the way tourists cross several torrents and walk over glaciers beneath which flow streams. Then comes the cave.

*Return* Most of the tourists prefer to reach Wayujan the same day and the next day Pahalgam following the same route as described above.

*Via Astanmarg.* There is another route via Astanmarg and Hatyara Talao, but this has been abandoned since 1928. The scenery throughout is remarkably beautiful with pleasant meadows, murmuring brooks and this is the reason that adventurous people still follow this route. For the first two miles from Panchtarni the same road above Khel Nur is followed and onwards turn to the right. At this 5th mile is Hatyara Talao (Tank). This is magnificent. Seven

miles onward comes the beautiful meadow of Astanmarg. Astanmarg to Chandanwari is 7 miles. The journey is pleasant. For the rest see above.

### **A Synopsis of Amar Nath Pilgrimage.**

The Amarnath pilgrimage season begins from the Amavasya day of Sravan each year corresponding approximately to the 1st week of August. The sadhus and pilgrims assemble at Dashnami Akhara, Srinagar. For full 3 days the pilgrims spend the time in religious lectures, devotional songs and in a variety of ceremonies at Dashnami Akhara and on the 4th day the whole assembly starts for Amarnath staying at Anantnag and Matan, until finally it arrives at Pahalgam on 10th day. They rest for one day and start on 12th day for Chandanwari. They reach Wayujan on 13th and on 14th Panch-tarani. On 15th (Full Moon day) they go to Amarnath Cave for *darsan* (visit) in the morning and return within 3 or 4 hours.

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## CHAPTER X

### EASTERN KASHMIR.

**T**HERE are many interesting sights in Eastern Kashmir such as the Lidar Valley, Pahalgam, Amar Nath, Kookernag, etc. While going to Pahalgam and Anantnag you will come across, situated along the road side, Pandrethan, Pampur (described above), Avantipur, Bijbehara (a big village with some old Hindu temples), Khannabal, etc.

#### **Avantipur**

This was the famous capital of Kashmir during the reign of King Avantī Varma who named it after himself. He ruled from 858 to 883 A.D. Now this is a village but it will evoke interest to many. Here stands the ruins of two temples built by Avantī Varma who dedicated them to Mahadev. Recent excavations have brought them to light and the carvings found here are regarded as unparalleled in Kashmir. The style resembles that of Martand temple but the pillars are elaborately carved in a varied character and the large columns are less elegantly proportioned. Because of their being situated on the road, they can be easily visited while going to Pahalgam or Anantnag from Srinagar whence it is 16 miles.



ACHHABAL GARDENS.



### Anantnag

This is the second biggest town in Kashmir. It is an important centre of trade. Wood carving, embroidery on table cloth, floor cloth, etc., are extensively practised. Anantnag is built round a conical hill and at the foot of this is a famous sulphur spring which is beneficial for the skin and intestines. Near by is a great spring of *Malakhnag* above which is built a temple. The water passes through two tanks and falls over a miniature cascade. During the season of the Amar Nath pilgrimage, the place is crowded with devotees. On the whole, the town is dirty. Anantnag is an important starting place for visits to Achhabal, Varynag, Kookernag, Martand temple, Matan, Kulgam, Dandmarg, Haribal falls, etc.

There is a court, post and telegraph office, a hospital and a Zenana Church Mission hospital. To Moslems, Anantnag is known as Islamabad. It is 34 miles from Srinagar and can be reached by a car or bus.

### Achhabal Garden.

This is a beautiful pleasure garden with splendid springs which gush out from the base of a hill and flow through the garden in channels and tanks artistically laid out with a set of fountains. The shady groves of chenar trees, velvety lawns and springs are remarkable. The garden was planted by Shah Jahan, the builder of the Taj, who it is understood, took a great fancy to this garden. There is a good number of fruit trees. The water of the springs is light and appetising. The limestone is abundant.

around the hills of Achhabal. The fountains play only on Sundays

Attached to the garden is a fine trout hatchery which deserves a visit

Camping is not allowed within 400 yds of the walls of the garden. Not far from the garden on the Khundru road are some fenced plots belonging to private persons. These may be rented at moderate rates. Opposite the garden is Dak-bungalow. Quite adjacent to it is a nice house which may be taken on rent

There is a post office and a bazar where country provisions can be purchased. From Shangus, 4 miles, good ghee can be got. Achhabal can be reached from Anantnag, 6 miles by road. The journey is quite pleasant

An excursion can be made to the ruins of Martand 4 miles from Achhabal beyond the village of Ranbir-pura. The road is fit for light traffic except immediately after rain but the notice board should be seen beforehand for the condition of the road. For excursions to Kookernag and Varynag see below

### **Kooker Nag**

The water springs of Kookernag are well known. The water is very appetising. In the author's experience, Kookernag springs water is decidedly the lightest in the whole of the valley of Kashmir but it cannot be said to be the best in the whole of Kashmir. Close to the springs are some camping grounds under walnut and apple trees. Two furlongs and a half above the springs is a forest rest house amidst



R. C. A.

CAMPING GROUND, KOOKERNAG,

KASHMIR



R. C. A.

KOOKERNAG SPRINGS,

KASHMIR.



pine woods This is available on permission from the Divisional Forest Officer, Anantnag (under the rules)

There is no market at Kookernag but milk and eggs can be had in plenty Fruits are abundant Visitors should carry with them their provisions and tents etc Country provisions like salt, sugar, spices, ghee, oil, etc , (but not wheat or flour) can be got from the shops at the neighbouring villages of Bindu, Bidher, and Hangal Kund Some two miles across the Bringhi River is the big village of Soaf where all country provision including wheat and fruits can be purchased at Anantnag rates There is a flour mill run by water fall at Kookernag

There is no post office here Most of the people arrange for their correspondence at Achhabal to be delivered here through some coolie who is paid for his labour I suggest to you to get your letters at Doru P O ,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles whence your servant can bring them or the village postman will deliver them weekly

Kookernag can be reached by a tonga or car , the distance from Achhabal is 10 miles and 16 miles from Anantnag In case bridges are washed away, ponies should be taken at Achhabal An early start is recommended if Kookernag is to be seen properly. From here, one can go to Varynag, 6 miles

Some three miles down Kookernag near the village of Sagam is Kookernag trout stream where fishing can be enjoyed

### Varynag

At the foot of the Banihal Pass in the Pir Panjal range is the far famed spring of Varynag which is



unusually large An octagonal tank encloses the spring and its pure indigo blue waters are very opalescent The depth on the sides is 10 feet but in the centre it is held to be 54 feet There is a large number of fishes in the tank but fishing is not allowed

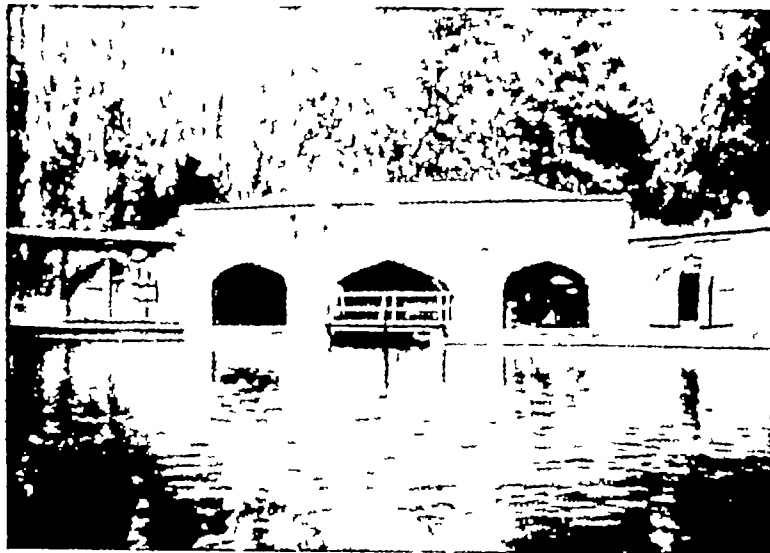
This spring is the secret source of the river Jhelum but according to some another spring known as Vyatasta situated one mile down Varynag is the source of the Jhelum Although the spring is about 8 inches deep and a few feet in length and breadth, yet the spring is perennial

In front of the Varynag tank is a well kept garden Both the garden and the buildings around the tank were built in 1612 by Jehangir who took a great fancy to this place and was so much enamoured of it that he wished his body to be cremated here after his demise

There is a post and telegraph office, a forest rest house and a small bazar Apples and fruits are available It is 21 miles from Anantnag by the motorable road and 16 miles by bridle road It can be visited while going to Srinagar *via* Jammu which is only 3 miles down from cart road at Munda Kookernag is six miles from here

### Matan

It is one of the most holy places of the Hindus who perform here some of their religious rites From the foot of a hill gushes out a huge spring, the water of which passes through two tanks The water is very clear There are some fishes in the tanks. Surrounding them are pilgrim houses and a temple of



R. C. A.

VARYNAG SPRINGS RESERVOIR,

KASHMIR



R. C. A.

VARYNAG GARDENS,

SHMIR

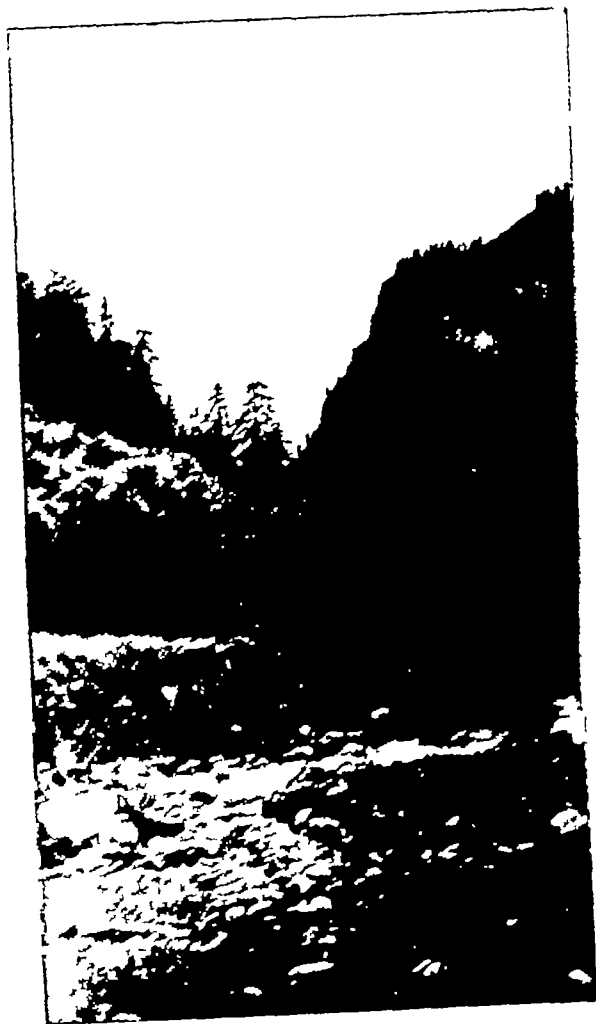
have originally approached 70 feet. The temple ruins are enclosed within a quadrangle, 220×142 feet

The sanctuary and the choir of the temple are richly panelled and decorated. The beautiful arches, gigantic stone columns, and elaborate carvings are no less worthy of interest. This temple was built by Ram Ditya, a Hindu king, in the 5th century and modified (and repaired) by King Lalitaditya in the 8th century. The temple is located on the fine plateau (Karewah) which is irrigated by a canal—taken out from the Sheishnag stream near Pahalgam. This canal is a veritable demonstration of engineering skill at almost each point of it and this is evident to a layman's eye as he observes it. But, however, of the temple—it is an imposing edifice of architectural finesse. The view down the valley from this place is excellent.

It can be easily visited from Matan. The journey is up the hill and covers 1½ miles. The road is suitable for cars except after rains. It can also be reached from Achhabal.

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G D B.

LIDDAR VALLY

KASHMIR

## CHAPTER XI

### SIDE VALLEYS OF KASHMIR

#### Liddar Valley

**T**HE Europeans consider this valley to be the best and most beautiful in Kashmir and it resembles in almost every respect the scenery of Switzerland. The valley throughout its length and breadth is covered with green vegetation, lovely meadows, glaciers and snow capped hills. The impression that is left on the minds of visitors is unspeakable. It is wonderful. The visitors will themselves appreciate it.

Its total length is some what over 40 miles commencing from the large glaciers of Kolahoi and Amar Nath Cave and ending at the fertile and well watered lands below Eishmukam with broad grassy meadows in between. The Liddar or Kolahoi and Sheishnag are the main streams which meet at Pahalgam. There are good many places for views. See Pahalgam.

#### Sind Valley

The Sind valley is the largest tributary of the Happy Vale of Kashmir. It presents beautiful landscapes and diversified scenery. The climate of

valley is wonderfully bracing and healthy This valley is the chief trade route between Kashmir and Central Asia It is sixty miles in length commencing from Ganderbal and ending at Baltal at the foot of Zojila Pass which opens into Ladakh Gandarbal to Baltal is a journey of four marches and a half All arrangement of ponies, coolies, tent and provisions should be made at Ganderbal

*Ganderbal to Kangam, 11½ miles.* Upto Wayil, 5 miles from Ganderbal, one can motor At Sipur, 3 miles from Ganderbal or at Nunner a little beyond the village there is camping ground Those who have started late from Ganderbal or Srinagar can pitch there Further, the River Sind is crossed at Wayil Near Prang, a path branches off for Chittagul and Wangat (vide Gangabal tour) After crossing Wangat stream, there comes Parao Kangam is a charming place with a dak-bungalow, serai, post office and good camping grounds under walnut trees From here and along the march, the view of the Harmukh range is very grand

*Kangam to Gund, 13 miles.* The bridle path goes through beautiful mountain scenery At Mumur 7 miles from Kangam there is good camping ground. At Ganjwan, cross for the left bank After two miles recross for the right bank On ascending, views of extensive glaciers are visible Gund is a village with a serai and post office at 6,500 feet.

*Gund to Sonmarg 14½ miles* The road to Sonmarg is hilly and zigzag Revil village comes after 2½ and Koolan village after 4 miles from Gund

It is from these villages that supplies are fetched for Sonmarg. At the 7th mile is Gagangir, situated at 7,200 feet. It is a beautiful place for camping.

Above Gagangir it is extremely hilly with crags rising to 8,000 feet and there is a lofty waterfall here. The journey is steep but the beautiful scenes throughout the uphill path will not allow you a moment's thought over the physical hardship that the journey entails. A raised part on the left bank of the river with lovely meadows and encircled by forests is Sonmarg. See Chapter on Gulmarg and Sonmarg.

*Sonmarg to Baltal 9 miles* A lovely path passes through meadows and good scenery to Baltal. Baltal itself is a beautiful spot with a broad and sunny meadow covered with myriads of flowers of various tint and description. Baltal is merely a stage to maintain communication with Ladakh. There is no habitation and supplies are scanty. There is a rest house across Zoji stream, a serai for travellers and good camping grounds.

### Lolab Valley.

This valley is regarded as one of the best with charms of its own. There are green rice fields, meadows and lovely orchards. Joshua Duke remarks "There are few more charming spots in Kashmir than the Lolab. If it lacks the wild grandeur of Sind or the majestic splendour of the Guraïs or the calm expanse of the Dal and the Manasbal, it has a sylvan beauty all its own and nowhere excelled."



This valley is 16 miles long and 3 miles broad and lies about 50 miles off north to Sopore. The valley produces a variety of fruits in large quantities. The hens of the valley are very good. Ideal camping grounds will be found at Patalnag, Kambrial, Nagmarg and Drass. There are nice forest huts at Drass, Chandigam, Kumbrial, Renawari and Kitardaji. Permission to use them should be obtained from the Divisional Forest Officer. This valley is hot in July and August. It is recommended to visit it before July or after August. The Forest Department has got a set of good roads throughout the Lolab and the prettiest is between Ramour and Drass. There are many routes but the easiest are the three following starting from Baramulla, Sopore and Alsu.

Stage	Miles	Stage	Miles	Stage	Miles
Sopore		Baramulla		Alsu	
Chogal	18	Pantsal	7	Nagmarg	7
Handwara	3	Kitardaji	7	Drass	10
Drugmulla	14	Khaipur	12		
Kambrial	8	Patalnag	10		
Drass	10	Kambrial	8		
		Drass	10		

### Wangat Valley

This is the smallest beautiful valley in Kashmir, being not more than six miles from end to end. Mr Wadia remarks, "in its own style, I am not sure if it is not the loveliest in all Kashmir." See Gangabal below.

## Interior excursions in the side valleys of Kashmir.

### In the Lidar Valley

There are interesting excursions in the interior part of the Lidar valley around Amar Nath, Kolahoi etc. Please see page 78 and 193 where much has been written on Lidar. All supplies and transport should be well arranged either at Srinagar or Pahalgam. For transport rates, see Appendix.

### To Pahalgam

*Bijbehara to Sallar, 11½ miles.* The road is easy and passes several pretty villages. A mile short of Sallar is Kutra village where there is a sacred spring and a camping ground nearby.

*Sallar to Pahalgam, 12 miles.* The road passes through fine scenery. At mile 7, cross to the left bank and meet the motor road. Then four miles farther is Pahalgam.

There is a direct route from Srinagar to the Lidar Valley, via Laitpur, a village near Srinagar at the foot of Western An on the river bank. The scenery throughout is fine. The road is fit for ponies.

*Laitpur to Ponzu, 11 miles.* Cross Paktuni Pass on an ascent of 1,400 ft.

*Ponzu to Wularhama, 11 miles.* Leave the river at Avani-pur and march to Trabal mile 8. Here is a fine camping ground. Next day cross Bangmur Pass in 3 hours and descend to Wularhama in 2 hours.

*Wularhama to Pahalgam.* A mile further from Wularhama join the road from Sallar to Pahalgam.

The motor road from Srinagar to Pahalgam runs on the left bank of the Lidar stream. At Hapat Nag near Eishmukam are some copper mines. Eishmukam is 15 miles from Anantnag. Here is an old monastery said to be of Zynuddm, a desciple of Nuruddin, a great Kashmir Saint. Eishmukam to Pahalgam is 12 miles. On the way is Ganeshbal over a spur on the left east bank. It is a place of Hindu pilgrimage. For Pahalgam see page 78.

### More routes from Pahalgam

*To Amar Nath.* From Panjtarni, another path goes to Amar Nath meeting opposite the cave *via* Bhairau Ghati, 14,350 ft. This is only fit for pedestrians.

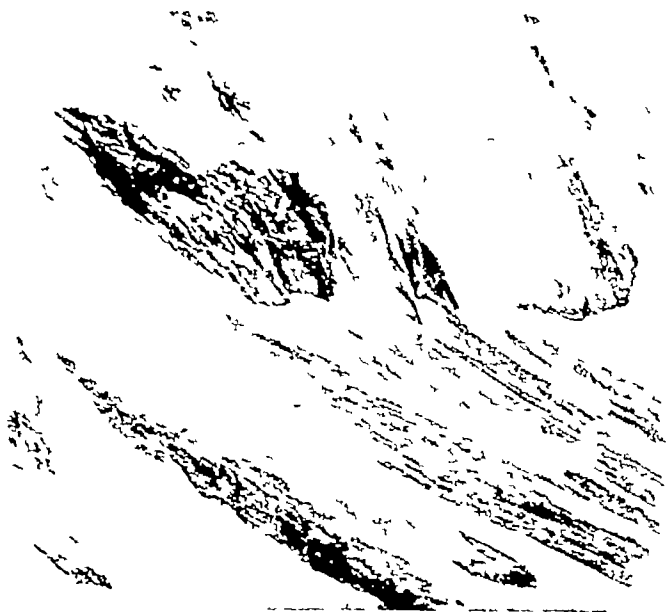
There is another route for Amar Nath from Zoji Pass. This was discovered by Mr A. Neve who writes in his book thus — "I discovered it in 1904. Leaving the dak hut near mile post 71, and turning south up the Gumber ravine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour to shepherd's camp,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour on avalanche snow. One hour pass goatherd's camp, and along moraine, keeping to the left. Where glacier makes a bend, keep south-east up rocks cutting off corner. One hour up rocks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour up easy snow slope keeping well to the left, S E 60. Total time to top  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours, then turn S by W 30, across snow, by crevasses,  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour to pass, turn W. along ridge, 20 minutes, then easy descent, S, 40 minutes to ravine. Here join route from Bhairau Ghati, 5 minutes above cave well marked tracks, reascend from cave to pass, 1 hour 20 minutes; total journey back 4 hours." This route is passable from last week of June to last week of September.



R.G.A.

CAMPING ON RAJWASU

PAHALGAM



G.D.B.

BELOW AMAR NATH CAVE



*To Har Nag.* From Pahalgam to Chandanwari is 9 miles and Chandanwari to Astanmarg, 7 miles, see pages 83 and 85 for details. Beyond Astanmarg, 10,800 ft, ascend 2 000 ft to Rabmarg. Here is a small lake in the Rajdain ridge. Then ascend on snow for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour to the pass. From the pass, one can climb and survey the peak which is interesting and requires an alpine equipment. From the pass descend 2,000 ft. to Har Nag. Here juniper is the only fuel available. From Astanmarg to Har Nag takes 5 hours. From Har Nag to Aru, see page 101.

*To Kolahoi.* See page 80 for the route. The glaciers and peaks of Kolahoi Group particularly the South and North Peak can be best climbed from Harbhagwan Valley around Har Nag.

### **Pahalgam (Lidar) to Sind Valley.**

There are several tracks between Lidar and Sind Valley but three routes, described below, are more convenient

1	<i>Via Sekwas</i>	36 miles
2	<i>Via Sarbal</i>	33 "
3	<i>Via Har Nag</i>	34 "

In route No 1, baggage ponies can be taken in August and September. Coolies only should be taken in routes No 2 and 3. Arrangement for supplies and transport should be done at Pahalgam for the through journey. The route No 3 closes in June when the snow bridges have thawed.

One can also go from Baltal (Sind Valley) to Lidar Valley (Amar Nath) only in June before

melting of snow bridges Lidar Valley (Amar Nath?) can also be reached from Gumba dak hut near the top of the Zoji Pass (page 98). This route goes above the cave, 15,208 ft. and is only fit for coolies. A path also goes from Amar Nath Cave to Sind Valley, distance 10 miles. This is fit for coolies and practicable upto August beyond which it is not always safe.

Return journey from Kalahoi Glacier can be made to Aru and thence Pahalgam by the western glacier and Katar Nag or by the eastern glacier to Har Nag. Some knowledge of rope work is needed on these routes as crevasses may be expected

### *Route via Sekwas*

*Pahalgam to Lidarwat, 14 miles* See page 80

*Lidarwat to Sekwas, 6 miles* The path is steep. Ascend Sekwas Nala Pass Dandanbari huts, mile  $2\frac{1}{2}$  (Alt 11,250 ft., G, W, E, F juniper)

*Sekwas to Khem Sar, 7 miles* The track turns up the valley northwards and crosses the stony Yam Sar Pass, 13,448 ft. Easy descent follows for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. There is a lake at Khem sar. Marmots are available in plenty (Alt 12,000 ft. E G W.)

*Khem Sar to Kulan, 9 miles* Firstly, pass through grassy hill side and then descend. In wet weather, this road is dangerous for ponies. Skirt Zaiwan spur and then follow steep descent through forest. Cross Sind river. Kulan is a village in the Sind valley (Alt. 7,300 ft., S and T from July to September and F G W always) See also page 94.

**Route via Kolahoi and Sarbal**

*Lidarwat to Kolahoi, 10 miles* Up to Lidarwat see above. Further the road is up and down and goes along the right bank of the Lidar stream through pine and birch forests. Camp near Kolahoi north glacier snout, (Alt 11,200 ft. E F G W)


*Kolahoi to Sarbal, 9 miles* Start early in the morning. The track is steep ascending. Reach the Sarbal Pass, 14,442 ft. Descend to North side. The journey is tiresome. The coolies take 8 hours. Sarbal is a village in the Sind Valley and stands on the road from Baltal to Sonmarg.

Sarbal to Sonmarg is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. One can also go to Sonmarg *via* Thajwas valley but the route *via* Sarbal village is better. See page 95 for onward journey.

**Route via Har Nag**

*Aru to Arnum, 7 miles* Up to Aru see page 80. The altitude of Aru is 7,920 ft and not 9,000 ft as on page 80. The track is fair with easy ascents and passes through forests. Arnum is a gujar hamlet with good camping grounds (F G W E). Arnum is also called Arwin.

*Arnum to Har Nag, 5 miles* The track is rough. Pass Nafron huts, mile 2. (This place is a good base for Ski-ing and climbing and once a proposed spot for the hut of Himalayan Club). Cross Hari Gali 12,729 ft, mile 4. Descend to Har Nag. There is a lake at Har Nag (Alt 12,270 ft. E F G W).

*Har Nag to Baltal, 15 miles.* The track goes down the valley. Traffic depends upon the condition of snow bridges (see above). The track  fit



for ponies At Baltal in the Sind Valley, there is a Dak hut See page 95. (Alt 9,450 ft. R H C.E F. G.W )

*Remarks.* In the route *via* Har Nag when coming from Baltal to Pahalgam, it is recommended to make two stages at Har Nag and Aru A short cut goes from Aru to Lidar valley east over the Korapathar Pass

Beyond Lidarwat, at mile 5, a track goes up Revil Nar branching further for Gumbur Gali and Basmal Gali, 13,885 ft The former goes to Koolan and latter to Gagangair in the Sind Valley This path is a bit difficult for pedestrians but in a long march one can reach the Sind valley or *vice versa*

### **Pahalgam (Lidar) to Wardwan *Via Sonasar Gulu***

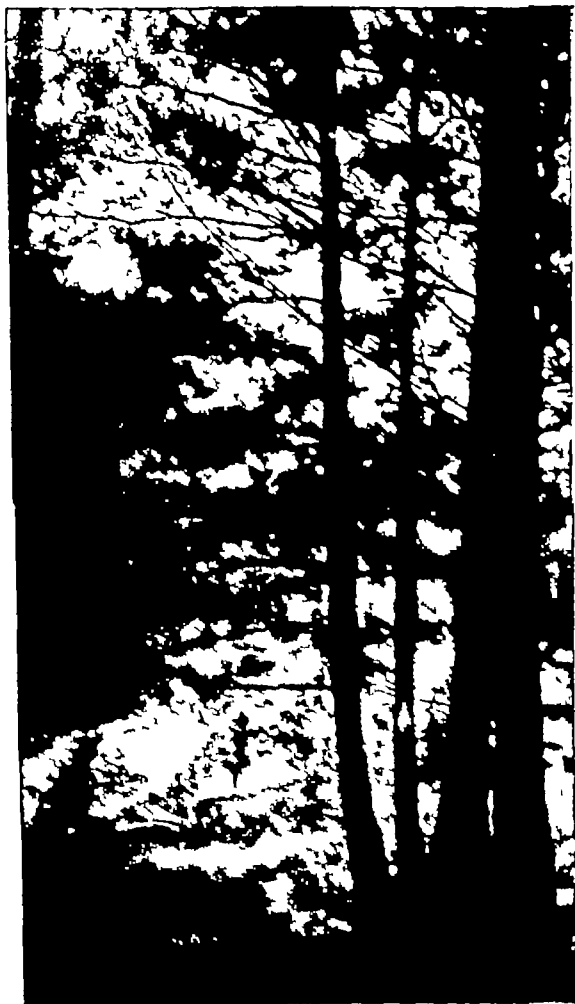
*Pahalgam to Zoipal, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles, see page 83* At Zoipal (Burzulkut), there is good camping ground near Burzulkut huts. (Alt 11,080 ft. E F.G W.)

*Zoipal to Sokhniz, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles.* The track is rough and only fit for coolies. Ford Lidar river Ascend through Sonasar Nala to Sonasar Lake Ascend on snow slopes and glacier to Sonasar Gulu, 14,411 ft, mile 6 Descend to Naginpathar huts, mile 9. Sokhniz is a village in Wardwan valley, (Alt 9090 ft E F G.W)

### **Lidar to Wardwan *Via Sheishnag***

*Pahalgam to Sheishnag. See page 83*

*Sheishnag to Rangmarg, 10 miles* Travel on the pilgrim route upto Wayujan Turn up side valley to Gulol Gali, 14,454 ft. In the way snow or shale is to be crossed and the journey is troublesome for



G D B

PINE WOODS, LIDDAR

KASHMIR



animals Descend to Gulol Nala. Rangmarg is a grassy meadow, (Alt. 10,356 ft E.F G W)

*Rangmarg to Sokhniz, 9 miles* Ascend a while, Pass Katwaryen and Bat Kol Valley. For Sokhniz, see page 102.

*Remarks.* The route *via* Zoypal is fit for pedestrians and ponies can be taken upto Zoypal The other route is fit for lightly laden ponies Supplies should be carried for through journey Nothing is available at Sokhniz except fuel

### **Lidarwat to Pampur.**

*Lidarwat to Tarsar, 10 miles.* The path goes up a gradual ascent through fine scenery to Tarsar Lake It is a beautiful lake.

It is recommended to cross the ridge beyond (13,300 ft) and descend to Nagberran amid beautiful scenery, mile 5, as no fuel is available within 2 miles of the lake

*Nagberran to Sootoor, 12 miles.* Ascend to a lofty ridge A good panoramic view of the Happy Vale of Kashmir can be obtained from here. Then descend about 4,500 ft to the village of Sootoor at the head of the Trahal valley From Sootoor, Narastan, an old temple can be visited.

*Sootoor to Pampur, 12 miles* Ascend about 1,500 ft up grassy slopes and descend about 2,000 ft. Across the plains is Khru Five miles further is Pampur and Srinagar is 11 miles *via* Woin.

*Sootoor to Avantipur, 15 miles.* The road passes fine scenery Trahal is a grassy meadow From Avantipur one can go to Srinagar by water or motor.

### **In Sind Valley.**

There are interesting excursions in the interior part of the Sind Valley. They require necessary equipments and indispensable information. Here important trips are given. Also see page 93 where-in you will find necessary description of the Sind Valley itself.

### **Time for Travel**

The month of June is the best time for travel in the Sind valley as at this time one can make excursions by going over the solid snow bridges (such as on the way to Amar Nath Cave from Baltal or to Har Nag, etc.) In all cases, while crossing snow, coolies should be taken and ponies be avoided. The months of July and August are not good for higher valleys as snow melts away by this time and streams are full with water, but in September and October, the weather becomes drier and rivers become fordable.

Sportsmen to Ladakh can pass through the valley in late winter and early spring. There is danger of avalanches from Gagangair onwards. It is recommended that travellers should pass dangerous slopes in early mornings and should halt if weather is bad. Also the Zojila Pass should be crossed before day light. The end of May is recommended for ordinary travellers.

It is advised not to go to Lidar from Koolan before July. Halts should be made in wet weather, and the pony charge not minded, as during this time they should be paid at half the rate.

### Ponies and Coolies.

It is recommended that pony transport be always kept during the tour and a few coolies who may bring necessary supplies from the villages. For long trips over snow permanent coolies should be engaged. For the Sind valley, coolies may be hired either at Ganderbal or from the big village below Kangan. Rations for the coolies should also be carried giving them every day.

*Before you take up difficult routes such as to Kolahoi by the glacier valley, Amar Nath to Sonmarg etc., it is recommended to make full enquiries about them from the Visitor's Bureau, Srinagar*

### Sind Valley Excursions

*Ganderbal to Baltal* See page 94

*Baltal to Zojila,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles* The Zojila Pass is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Baltal and is 11,578 ft. above sea-level. May is a very good time for travellers to cross the pass for Ladakh.

From the Zojila, there is a path to Amar Nath cave described on page 100.

From Sonmarg there is a path to Tilel *via* Krishn Sar (see page 111).

### Shalamar Bagh to Sonmarg

This is a direct mountain track. Start early in the morning from the bank of the Dal at Shalamar, and cross the ridge, 9,000 ft. Descend to Haiyan. This march takes 7 hours.

*Second march.* Haiyan to Koolan is 12 miles.

*Third march.* Koolan to Sonmarg is 10 miles.

### **Gangabal Lake**

There are several lakelets on the slopes of Harmukh mountains 12,000 ft above sea-level, and Gangabal lake, also called Harmukat Ganga, is the largest of them. The Kashmir Hindus have got a great reverence for this. They bring the ashes of the dead to pour in this holy water. A great pilgrimage is also held every year during the month of August. The lake can be reached in two marches from Ganderbal.

*Ganderbal to Wangat, 13 miles* Upto Prang Sonmarg route is followed (see page 94) The road throughout is up and down Wangat is a pretty village in the Wangat valley 6,800 ft high Three miles beyond Wangat are ruins of Rujdainbal and Nagbal temples which are worth a visit

*Wangat to Gangabal, 12 miles* Above the ruins, the road is very steep but the views are magnificent At Tronkol one can encamp and can make a return journey to the lake next day The lake is 5 miles from here Camp can be pitched at Gangabal but no fuel is available there and should be brought from Tronkol There are good trout in the lake but fishing is prohibited

### **Shorter route to Gangabal**

This starts from Chittagul but this is steeper.

*Chittagul to Mahalesh, 6 hours.* This is a very steep climb about 5,500 ft. up. Ponies go up with great difficulty The scenery is excellent.

*Mahalesh to Gangabal, 3 hours* Travel along the grassy ridge and ascend to the pass over 13,000 ft Turn to the left, descend and walk along the stream coming from the Gangabal lake.

*It is suggested to go to Gangabal via Wangat and Tronkol and return by Mahalesh The trip takes 4 days*

### **Gangabal to Wular lake**

This is an interesting excursion The journey takes 3 days The track is unfit for pony transport The track up the Gangabal ascends, passes a small tarn, Loolgool Nag, and then descends to Kalasar, a small lake Onward journey is an easy ascent over the Lolgul pass, 13,294 ft high and further, the path descends to Chitra Sar, the head of the Erim Nullah Here camp. Gangabal to Chitra Sar is 7 hours march

Descend from Chitra Sar to Koodoora, 9 miles or to Tsuntmulla, 12 miles Further eight miles journey is to Nadhual on Wular Chitra Sar to Wular lake is about 11 hours journey which may be done in two days.

### **Gangabal to Bandipur (Wular) via Tresangam & Atawat.**

*Gangabal to Tresangam* Reach Loolgul Nag as above Loolgulnag to Tresangam is about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles Further continuing the path for Kala Sar but leaving Kala Sar on the left, descend to the valley downwards This is Tresangam Nullah Further there are steep, confusing and unfit for laden ponies miles Descend two miles, ford a torrent





the Harmukh Dr E F Neve and Sir G W Millaiss were able to reach the east and highest peak General Bruce climbed Harmukh in 1907 from Ganderbal The marches are as follows -

*Wular to Koodoora, 5 hours* Start from Nadhial on the Wular lake Pass Sumlar on the half journey. There are good camping grounds at Koodoora

*Koodoora to Sarbal, 6 hours.* Three quarter hours journey reaches a bridge where two valleys meet Further, Chitral Sar Nullah is passed on the left Keep yourself to the right and ascend to Ganaspatra in about 3 hours Pass forest, grassy slopes and two small lakes one after the other The spot for climbing to Mt Harmukh is up the ridge to the North Sarbal is a beautiful small village From here, one can climb over snow ridge and reach Mahalesh but coolies are difficult to follow.

*One can be back to Koodoora from Sarbal in 4 hours and thence to Wular (Nadhial) in 4 hours*

### **Sarbal to Ganderbal.**

*Sarbal to Mohandmarg, 1st March.* Mohandmarg is a lovely grassy meadow on the top of the range, south of Harmukh The altitude is about 10,500 ft Water and fuel are present

*Mohandmarg to Ganderbal, 2nd March* Descend steeply to Moingam whence further 2 hours journey is Ganderbal

It will take 6 hours in ascending from Moingam to Mohandmarg One March further is Koodoora in the Erin Nullah

## **Ganderbal to Badogam (Tilel).**

There is a route from Ganderbal to Badogam (Tilel) *via* Wangat. This route is fit for lightly laden pack animals in dry fine weather but not during rains when it becomes very slippery

*Ganderbal to Wangat, 13 miles.* See page 106.

*Wangat to Tronkol, 6 miles* See page 106

*Tronkol to Gadasar, 10 miles.* Cross a pass over 13,000 ft about half way, and further descend to grassy valley and travel through birch trees Here a path is joined which goes to Sonmarg by Nichnai and Vishan Sar, distance 25 miles, (page 111)

*Gadasar to Badogam, 12½ miles* The path ascends upto Mashid Gali, 13,639 ft, then descends Cross Rakı Sin or Lohun Nala, mile 5½ Further ascend to Lohtu ridge whence follows steep descent through forest Altitude of Gadasar is 10,900 ft. Badogam is a large village where transport and supplies are procurable The river Kishanganga flows by the side of the village A road goes, along its bank, to Purana Tilel, mile 6½ The altitude of Badogam is 8,950 ft

## **Kangan to Manasbal.**

There is a path from Kangan to Manasbal along the right bank of the river Sind The distance is 16 miles and the path passes through fine scenery See page 65 for Manasbal itself

## **Krishn Sar and Vishan Sar.**

These are famous glacier-fed lakes in the Sind Valley, situated at an altitude of 12,500 ft.

There are two routes, one by Nichinai Pass and the other by Gangabal Lake. The former is recommended as there is one pass in the way and fuel is available at each stage. Arrangement of coolies should be made at the starting place but can be made at Sonmarg and Wangat also. Red bears are found between Nichinai Pass and Gadasar. The routes are practicable for lightly laden ponies but during rains both routes are difficult for ponies.

### Route No. I.

*Sonmarg to Nichinai, 8 miles* The path is rough and steep. It starts from right bank of the Sind river opposite Sonmarg east, and passes Lashmarg and grassy valley of Nichinai. Pass Gulwanpa at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. There are grazing grounds at Nichinai, (Alt 11,900 ft, E F G W)

*Nichinai to Vishan Sar, 8 miles* The path is steep upto Nichinai Pass, 13,387 ft and then follows descent. Pass Hiram Pathri *gajar* huts in the way. There is juniper (fuel) available, (Alt 12,500 ft, E F G W). Camping between the two lakes is suggested. After an ascent of about 400 ft is Krishna Sar lake.

The path continues and goes to Gadasar, mile 9 and further to Badogam (Tilel), mile  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . From Badogam (Tilel), Gurais is  $21\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

### Route No. II.

*Gangabal to Mengandobe, 6 miles* The path is of steep ascent and descent. Firstly, there is steep ascent of 1,700 ft to Zajibal Gali, 13,450 ft. Then follows a steep descent of 1,500 ft to Satsar.

where there is a small lake (Alt 12,000 ft E G W).

*Mengandobe to Gadasar, 12 miles.* Cross Satsaran Bar Pass, 12,072 ft Descend a little to Gadasar Camp, (Alt 10,900 ft, E F G. W)

*Gadasar to Vishan Sar, 9 miles* There is a steep ascent to Krishna Sar Pass, 13,750 ft and then descend

*To reach Gangabal, see page 106* One can return from Vishan Sar or Krishna Sar to Kangan in Sind valley via Harmukh and Wangat Nullah

### **The Lolab Trips.**

Baramulla to Pantsal is 7 miles The path is up and down but scenery is fine. Pantsal to Kitar-daji is 7 miles Ascend about 700 ft and walk along the beautiful forest ridge and further descend a little From here the view of Kaj Nag Mountain is beautiful

Kitardaji to Khaipur (Renawari hut) is 12 miles The path is fair upto Mowar Stream Cross it and ascend through deodar forest and then descend to Dachidora and further down to Khaipur Turn left for the hut, which is half a mile

From Khaipur one can go with tents to Shalura. The whole district of Utar Machipura is pretty.

Khaipur to Patalnag is 10 miles Cross the Pohru valley and pass several villages upto Patalnag above Drugmulla

Patalnag to Kumbrial is 8 miles The path goes through a narrow forest valley. Kumbrial to Drass is 10 miles and path fair In the way, there is a good camping ground at Lalpur

### **A better route to Lolab.**

A better road is made from Sopore to Lalpur and thence to Drass *via* Chogul, Drugmulla and Kotwara

*Sopore to Harwan hut, 10 miles.* The road is dusty but fair. Go to Chogul, 13 miles, if camping is desired

*Harwan to Patalnag, 14 miles* Travel along the right bank of the Pohru river and further take up the path from Patalnag to Lalpur and Drass as described above

One can hire a doonga boat and can go 2 miles up from Harwan hut. Beyond this point the current of the Pohru is rapid but under some favourable circumstances boats can ascend as far as Chogul or Awat Kotla

### **Alternative Route to Drass**

One can climb the ridge, north east of Harwan hut. Ascending takes 3 hours. Further descend in 2 hours to Drass forest dak bungalow, 9 miles

### **Drass to Alsu (Direct.)**

One can go from Drass to Alsu direct, distance being 14 miles. A ridge about 2,000 ft is crossed and then there is an ascent through forest which follows a steep descent to the village of Alsu. The lake is one mile off. There is no certainty of the availability of boats at Bandipur

*A summary of the Routes' Table to Lolab is given on page 96*

### **Alsu to Nagmarg**

The popular route for Nagmarg starts from Alsu whence it is 7 miles. The path is gradual ascending

3,500 ft higher from Alsu This journey should be done in early mornings

*Nagmarg to Drass is 9 miles* The path is firstly ascending and then level Further join the path from Kumbrial to Drass as on page 112

See page 69 for Nagmarg itself There is a path from Nagmarg to Rampur-Rajpur as below

### **Wular Lake and routes**

The best time to camp near the lake is April and May Watlab, Zirimanz and Kyunas are good camping grounds Safe place for boats is the latter Bandipur is the starting place for Gilgit A few miles away from Bandipur is Alsu whence routes go to Lolab and Nagmarg Another path goes to Lolab from Kyunas See page 66 for Wular Lake itself

### **To Rajpur from Wular.**

From Kyunus (Wular) an interesting trip can be made to Rajpur The path ascends to 2,500 ft. and passes through pretty scenery At Rampur-Rajpur is a forest dak bungalow

From here one can descend either to Sopore, 9 miles, by going towards west or to Nagmarg and Drass by going over the hill towards north or to Lolab across the ridge Ponies are difficult to go by the hilly routes One can ride to the top of the ridge towards west for 5 miles and then join the Arwan route and descend to Drass forest dak bungalow. The top of the Kahoota Hill Station is 2 hours climb from Rampur-Rajpur whence a fine panoramic view is seen of all sides







ULPH

A COUPLE

KASHMIR

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE PIR PANJAL

#### And Footsteps in Southern Kashmir.

THE Pir Panjal is the outer range of the Himalaya into Kashmir and extends from the gorge at Baramulla to the Banihal Pass and as such makes the southern boundary of the Happy Vale of Kashmir. This varies from 9,000 ft at the Banihal Pass, 11,500 ft at the Pir Pass to 15,500 ft. at the various peaks such as Tatakuti about the middle of the range, Sunset Peak near the Panjal Pass and Brahma Sukul further south. The peaks remain under snow all the year round as if they were the silvered outline of some fairy city. The lower part of the Pir is plateaux with deep ravines, above are forests and still above are meadows such as Gulmarg, Khullenmarg, Ludurmarg, Sangarwari, Kangwatan, etc. Above the meadows are grassy slopes which lead to higher snowy summits.

There are passes, on the Pir Panjal, usually ranging from 15,000 to 15,500 ft but none below 13,000 ft except the Pir Panjal Pass. The goatherds alone inhabit the neighbourhood of the passes, such as above Ferozpur Nullah and in the Toshmaidan. Several peaks like Toshmaidan Peak, Sunset Peak, Tatakuti Peak, etc are now accessible. There is heavy glacial snow in many of the high

hollows with numerous lakelets such as Konsar Nag, Kontar Nag, Gagri Nag between 12,000 and 14,000 ft. The trips over the best bridle paths from Srinagar and Gulmarg, etc into the interior of Southern Kashmir are given as follows

### **Gulmarg to Zamir Pass.**

This is two days trip. The path is the same as described upto Ferozpur Nullah (page 75) whence a path turns upwards to south west. After a journey of 2½ hours, a large bridge is met with whence an ascent of about 300 feet in an hour reaches shepherds (gujar) huts. Here remains of old snow are often seen, (alt. 8,000 ft). After 3 hours journey through forest and grassy slopes you come to 11,000 ft. Here Camp. Next day return journey to Zamir Pass can be made. From Camp, Gulmarg is reached in 5 hours.

### **Gulmarg to Toshmaidan.**

The route described here is a longer one than that commonly followed (page 76). There are no regular bridle roads but cattle tracks from one shepherd's hut to the next. Milk and sheep are only got in the way. It is strongly recommended to have a map. Arrange for the coolies and provisions at Gulmarg.

**Gulmarg to Bandi (Camp)** Path upto remains of old snow vide Zamir Pass route is followed. Thence stream is crossed for the left side. There is a steep ascent (alt 10,000 ft) through forests and meadows. After 10 hours, including halts in the way, Bandi is reached.

*Bandi to Toshmaidan* Next day ascend 800 ft. to a grassy ridge. The scenery is beautiful. Ascend to the top of Kral Nangal Pass, 12,002 ft. The view of the surroundings is magnificent. Descend 2,000 ft. to a vast grassy plain. This is Toshmaidan. The best camping site is on the ridge to its north. Time taken 10 hours including halt.

### **Toshmaidan to Nilnag.**

*First march* Cross the ridge marked Lal Alam shah, descend to Hakakhal (Gujar village) and ascend to shepherds' huts at Dorem, 9,500 ft. Here is one of the most beautiful and secluded meadows. There are some cattle tracks which go to Poonch. This march takes 10 hours.

*Second March* After an easy ascent behind Chanz (3 hours), cross a bridge over river near Tatakuti Mountain. Onwards is almost level till you reach Diskhal, 11,000 ft. Descend to the Mitskan canal and cross the River Səngsafed. Nearby is a fine water spring of Phras Nag. Here is an open meadow. The second march takes 5 hours.

*Third March* Descend *via* Yusimarg to Nilnag, 2½ hours journey.

Pakipura is a muslim pilgrimage, 4 hours journey from Yusimarg whence Gulmarg can be reached in 4 days through beautiful mountain landscapes.

### **Srinagar to Toshmaidan.**

*Via Magam.* Srinagar to Magam is 14 miles (page 72). Magam to Kag is 10 miles and the path is steepy. Kag is a good village, 7,000 ft. high above the sea level with good camping grounds.

chenar trees about 2 furlongs west of the village. Kag can also be reached from Gulmarg *via* Ferozpur, distance 15 miles. From Kag good cattle track leads to Toshmaidan passing through forests with winding and ascending path. It takes 4 hours from Kag.

*Via Watrehel* Srinagar to Watrehel is 14 miles. The bridle road starts from the city near Parade ground. Wompur comes at the sixth mile and a mile ahead is Badogam Tehsil. The road, further, is with ups and downs. Watrehel stands below a ridge and is a Muslim pilgrimage. Watrehel to Toshmaidan is 16 miles. At the 10th mile is Drang. Further six miles up to Toshmaidan are steepy.

There is another route from Watrehel, though longer but better, *via* Riyar and Suknag. Watrehel to Riyar is 11 miles. Further cross Suknag bridge, ascend  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours to the top, descend one hour and again go up for an hour to Toshmaidan, eight miles. Total distance is 19 miles.

### **Srinagar to Nilnag**

*Srinagar to Nagam* is 12 miles. The Shupiyon road should be taken up. This part of the journey may be accomplished in a motor. At the 6th mile is Kralpura and at the 7th is a grove of chenar trees whence the road turns to the right. At the 8th mile is Alikadal bridge at Wahtor village. The road passes through green rice fields and after 3 miles comes Tsodar and a bridge. One mile on is Nagam. Nagam is a Muslim pilgrimage being that of Sheikh Nuruddin's shrine. Camping is on the top of the ridge in north east of the village. Canal water is the

only good water available There are two routes to Nilnag, both are good

(1) *Nagam to Nilnag* direct is 8 miles The path goes along the north slope of the plateau and passes Badogam and Nurpur villages, mile 2. After half a mile take care to keep yourself to south west for Branjan, mile 3 and avoid the Hoplu track After two miles ascending to Bazgu village and one mile more upside is Gogipatri above which is Nilnag, 6,800 ft A forest Rest House is present here

(2) *Nagam to Pakipura via Tsrar* is 12 miles The road ascends and crosses a plateau and passes a valley and then a steep ascent up to Tsrar On ward journey to Pakipura is over the plateau

*From Pakipura (Alt 6,500 ft), one can go to Gulmarg through beautiful landscapes It takes 4 days The track goes from Yusimarg to Riyar (1½ days) and to Kag and then to Gulmarg There is also a route to Poonch via Choti Gali Pass*

*Pakipura to Shupiyon* is 12 miles The first six miles are ascending and passes through beautiful scenery The river Rambhara is crossed The road passes a mile or two along the foot of the slope till Shupiyon is reached

*Shupiyon to Nilnag via Chawan* is very pretty and reminds one of the pine districts of Kent and Surrey In the way, villages of Narpura, Veshur, Maspura and Kellar are met up to Chawan village which is situated amid beautiful forests Bear is found It takes 6 hours from Shupiyon

*Chawan to Nilnag* is about 12 miles. Descend to river Kachgal and ascend for 30 minutes. Walk on easy path for half an hour and descend for half an hour through beautiful scenery all round. Cross the river and ascend to Nagbal. Three miles easy going is Yusimarg. It is a fine meadow. Ascend to the top of the meadow. Cross the ridge and descend to Nilnag.

### **Srinagar to Gulmarg.**

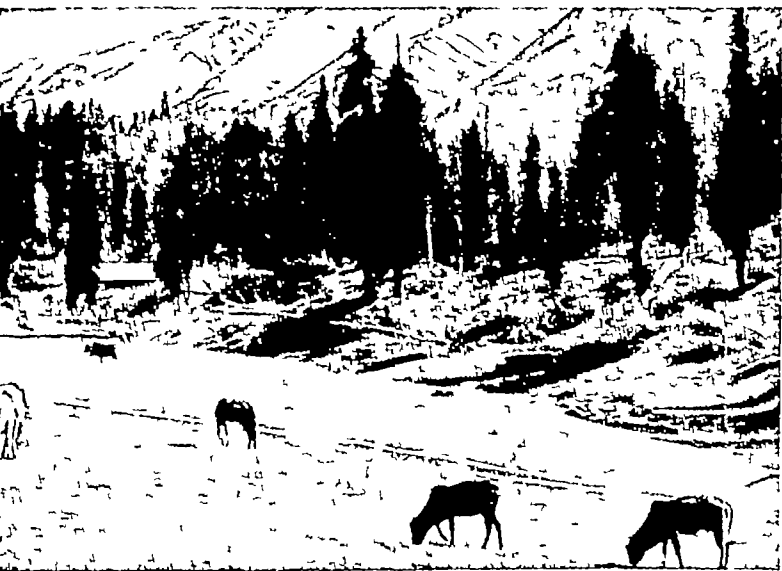
*Srinagar to Yechgam* is 6 miles. The road starts from 1st Bridge and passes barracks and Batmalu. Down the plateau is Yechgam. Ascend to the open valley of Dregam. There are good camping grounds at Dregam. Further path goes along the right side of the valley and after 8 miles comes Khan Baba Sahib Ziarat, a place of Muslim pilgrimage. Good camping grounds along the road side are present. The next four miles are steep and pass through forest. Further descend for two miles till Riyar is reached.

*From Riyar to Kag* is 8 miles. Road is fairly level and passes through beautiful scenery. From Kag to Gulmarg is 15 miles *via* Ferozpur Nullah or Valley. The total distance is 43 miles.

### **Toshmaidan to Poonch.**

*Toshmaidan to Nala Sar* is 10 hours journey, five hours to reach Nandan Sar, and an hour to top of the pass, 13,500 ft. and then steep descent to Nala Nar.

*Nala Nar to Gajri* is 5 hours journey. The path passes amid beautiful woods and ferns and is almost descending. Routes from Ferozpur Pass meet here.



A LANDSCAPE, GULMARG

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at Gajri. The next march is Mandi and thence to Poonch. See Pir Panjal Route

### **Gulmarg to Poonch *via* Dorein.**

This is a better route than described above For Gulmarg to Riyar, see page 120

One march beyond Riyar is Dorein which is a shepherds' village Further, Dorein to Nurpur takes about 6 hours The path is steep Ascend to Nurpur Pass, 13,000 ft. Descend from the top for one hour and a half to the village of Nurpur.

*Nurpur to Lohrin* is 6 hours journey. The path is steep but with beautiful scenery in the way Sir A Stein has recognised Lohrin to be as Lohara which played an important role in Kashmir history. Lohrin to Mandi is 3 hours journey and thence to Poonch, a long stage.

*From Nurpur, one can go to Nilnag Nurpur to Chanz is 5 hours and another 6 hours journey to Nilnag*

### **Nilnag to Riyar and Gulmarg.**

*Nilnag to Riyar* is about 10 miles Start early Cross plateau and descend to River Sangsafed Pass the village Brenwar and through another plateau descend to River Yechara Keep to the left and pass through pine forest to Mujpatri There is denser forest onward till you reach the meadow at Riyar.

Riyar commands a magnificent view of Nanga Parbat The air is very refreshing The scenery is very fine and similar to Swiss woods.

There is gradual ascent. Cross the ridge. Pitch camp at the foot of Chanz mountains, distance 5

miles This route joins the Nurpur one and goes to Gulmarg

### **Shupiyon.**

Shupiyon is a large village situated on a raised ground from parts of which view down the valley from Anantnag to Srinagar is clearly visible Shupiyon is 32 miles from Srinagar by motor road and is a good base for several routes to Nilnag, Konsarnag, Aharbal (Haribal) Falls, Varynag, Anantnag, Pakipura, etc

### **Aharbal Falls and Konsar Nag.**

*Shupiyon to Sedau* is about 6 miles Travel first two miles along the road to Haripur Turn to the left and walk 4 miles to Sedau village Three miles on from Sedau are the falls These are one of the highest falls and worth a visit The falls are formed by the waters of Konsar Nag lake falling down over steep precipitous rocky walls These are best visited from the right bank of the river which can only be crossed by going some miles down opposite Rishnagar. Return to Sedau for Konsar Nag

*Sedau to Chhater Nag* is 9 miles. Walk for 3 miles on easy ascent and then descend to Saidwas Stream Further is steep ascent. Reach Ram Kasan through forest in an hour and Veshau stream in next hour and a half. Camp near river. Three miles down on the right bank is Kangwatan village.

*Chhater Nag to Konsar Nag* is 3 hours journey, two third of which is gradual ascent up the grassy valley. The next one hour is very steepy and then comes the lake, nearly 13,000 ft. above the sea level. It is over 2 miles long. Above it is a narrow glacier

valley and three rugged peaks, nearly 15,500 ft out of which Brahma Sukul (15,523 ft) is the highest. These are visible from Sialkot

The falls and lake can also be visited from Hirpur (see the Pir Panjal Route) A route to Budil Pass diverges to the right from Sedau with the Konsar Nag path

### **Shupiyon to Anantnag.**

*Direct* The distance is  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles Leave the market, meet the stream and turn east Cross plateau *via* Hajipura and reach Terigam, 10 miles Camp here The path descends and rice fields are met below Walk 4 miles up to Khaimu and cross Veshau river by ferry The road is level up to Kambal, mile 3 Kambal has a dak bungalow One mile and a half on is Anantnag

*Via Kulgam* The distance is 24 miles Shupiyon to Kulgam is 13 miles Numerous streams are crossed Up to Hajipur, mile 5, path is the same as described above Then keep to the right Three miles after, descend to Ar and reach Salgam across rice fields after another 3 miles After 2 miles over the plateau is Kulgam Camp below the tehsil Fishing may be enjoyed in the Veshau stream between Kulgam and Khaimu

*Kulgam to Anantnag* is 11 miles Start from the bazar and descend through rice fields to Khaimu Here are good camping grounds. Doonga boats can come up to Khaimu in summer See above for the rest of the journey

*The above roads via Kulgam or direct are fit for cars except immediately after rains*

### Shupiyon to Varynag.

The distance is 33 miles. For Shupiyon to Kulgam, see above. Kulgam to Rozlu is 12 miles Veshau valley is crossed, then comes Bun Deosar, 4 miles. Ascend through woods to Bringan Lanar, another 6 miles Cross another spur for Rozlu. There is a shorter route *via* Deosar and Sargam to Yor, 10 miles from Kulgam.

*Rozlu to Varynag via Yor is 8 miles.* The path is a pretty one and the scenes of Lamur and Rozlu resemble the pretty Lolab Mr Vigne was greatly charmed with this route

### Shupiyon to Manzgarn.

The distance is 10 miles Ascend and cross several grassy hollows Pass several villages and cross plateau for Rishnagar Descend to Veshau and cross it. Up the valley, 2 miles from the river is Manzgarn. There are beautiful meadowy plains above Manzgarn Camp beyond the village or at Wotta or at Tangmarg

*Aharbal Falls can be visited from Manzgarn The path is pretty. Walk six miles up to the gorge of the Veshau and descend to the top of the falls. You can camp at Tangmarg. From Tangmarg, it is 3 hours journey to Kangwattan whence Konsar Nag can be visited in one day*

Ascend to the top of the spur above Manzgarn, 2 hours journey Two miles east of Manzgarn is Kuri village whence a path leads into higher meadows Towards the south is the lofty turret of Brahma Sakul

One can go to the glaciers above Gogulmarg and Zojmarg, coolies may be taken from Nandmarg.

### **Manzgam to Varynag *Vis* Dandwar Nullah.**

*Manzgam to Aripur* is 10 miles. The path is pretty and easy (Alt 6,500 ft) At the sixth mile is Hanjipur. Henceforth travel up the valley and cross a stony plain and camp at Aripur

In the neighbourhood of Aripur is Dandwar Nullah where bears are very good From Dandwar Nullah, one can ascend to Sundar Tope, 12,740 ft. whence a magnificent view of Eastern Kashmir is obtainable

From Aripur a path goes to Ramsu on Banihal cart road, two days journey by Monu Pass (11,000 ft) From Hanjipur a path goes to Zojmarg by Kansbal, 6½ hours journey, it goes south above the ridge 9,000 ft 2 hours, down to Lashmarg, 3 hours, and then Zojmarg, 1½ hours

Zojmarg to Partal camp is about 3½ hours journey At first there is an ascent which follows a long descent It was here that survey for railway lines into Kashmir was done in 1904 but abandoned due to want of finances Riasi is 4 days journey from Gulabgarh

*Aripur to Rozlu* is 12 miles. Ascend to ridge Chumateng Then descend to a plain below Rozlu to Varynag is 8 miles See page 124

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## CHAPTER XIII

### Footsteps in the interior of Eastern Kashmir and Kishtwar.

THE Eastern Kashmir or rather the upper end of the Happy Vale of Kashmir is an extremely beautiful tract of land equipped with luxuriant forests, fine landscapes, green meadows, murmuring brooks and claims worth a visit. Many important sights of the Eastern Kashmir such as Achhabal, Kookernag, Varynag, Matan, Martand Temple, Anantnag, Avantipur (page 86) and Pahalgam, Amar Nath, Kolahoi Glacier (page 78) are separately described. There are still many sights in the interior of the Eastern Kashmir for which routes embark from any of the above places. Anantnag and Pahalgam are the two main bases of many expeditions into the interior part of Kashmir.

*Start from Srinagar* You may commence your journey either by motor or boat. A motor takes two hours to reach Anantnag but a light doonga boat reaches in two nights and a day while a house boat covers the journey in four days. The time taken by a boat also much depends upon the depth of water and nature of wind direction, while going down the stream it usually takes about 20 hours. Khanabal, one mile short of Anantnag is the usual landing place for Anantnag as the Jhelum beyond Khanabal is not navigable except when there is sufficient water. The total distance by water is 47 miles.



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AN ELDERLY LADY

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while by road it is 34 miles For the road portion also see page 87

Two miles ahead of Munshi Bagh is Pandrethan Temple (page 60) Five miles from Srinagar is a stone bridge near Pantha Chak Beyond this are plateaux where saffron cultivation is carried on (page 62). Pampur is the centre of saffron cultivation and is a decayed town about 8 miles from Srinagar on Pahalgam Anantnag Road Below the town are camping grounds under the Chenar trees A little further on the bank of the Jhelum is a lodge of His Highness the Maharaja Nearabout Pampur are some sulphurous springs at Woin and Khru (page 68.)

To the west and north of Khru and Khonmoo are lime stone ridges which contain richly fossiliferous strata These have been of some special interest to geologists Below the mountain and a little distance away from the river are ancient Hindu ruins of Ladoo Kakapoor is a large village on the river bank, 12 miles up the river whence a Hindu temple of Payech is about 7 miles On the 16th mile post is Avantipur see page 86 Above Avantipur opens out Trahal Valley On the 25th mile post is Sangam Bridge which was burnt by a furious mob in 1931 Next is Bijbehara a big village On the opposite side of the river are some ancient Hindu ruins close to a new one Four miles further is Khannabal Here is a nice rest house of H H. Maharaja Between Khannabal and Anantnag (Islamabad) is the Wazir Bagh where camps can be pitched and boats be moored on the bank Next is Anantnag, see page 87

Anantnag is a base for many trips such as—

(A) To Dandwar Nullah by Kulgam and going north east to Bringan Lanar, Varynag, Kookernag, Nowbug by Aripur and back by Shangas (Achhabal)

(B) To Wangam by Varynag, to Wakinringi in the direction of Marbal Pass by Soondbrar and back to Nowbug Go to Doosoo and Rajparan and back to Shangas and then up to Chur Nag and return by the Margan Pass to Gauran

(C) By Kulgam, Dandmarg, Manzgam, Aharbal Falls, Kangwattan, Konsarnag, and back by Shupiyon to Bijbehara.

(D) By Achhabal and Kookernag to Nowbug, and then by Hulkun Gali to Kuthar and back by Martand or to Lidar Valley at Sallar by Paisan and then to Harpat Nar or to Eishmukam

For routes by Kulgam and towards south west direction, see the Chapter on "The Pir Panjal and Footsteps in the Southern Kashmir " As the above trips are both in the southern and eastern Kashmir, it is advised to see both the chapters

*Any of the above trips can be done in 12 to 15 days but can be prolonged by going further afield*

### **Anantnag to Varynag.**

Varynag is 19 miles from Anantnag by bridle road up the Valley of Sandrin river The first half of the journey is easy and the latter half across stony path. Three miles before Varynag is Shahabad, a big village with Mosques of Moghul days

From Shahabad, there are two paths, both are steep, 1,200 ft. higher, one turns to east and descends



RCA

AN OLD MAN

KASHMIR



RCA

A FIELD MAN

KASHMIR



to Nuru and by Kookernag goes to Nowbug Valley and the other goes to Achhabal

### **Varynag to Kookernag.**

The distance is 6 miles. A small ridge is crossed half way. At Soaf village, there are some former iron mines. Not far from here are also some ruins of an ancient temple.

### **Kookernag to Soondbrar**

From Kookernag, Soondbrar is 5 hours journey. Here is a sacred spring. Kookernag to Wangam is 4 hours journey. Here are good camping grounds. Wangam to Soondbrar is an hour's journey.

### **Nowboog Valley.**

It is a pretty valley with park like scenery, backed by rugged peaks. Its climate is cool throughout the year. The valley is a small one, being only two miles wide. The village of Nowboog is 11 miles from Kookernag. There is a good camping ground at Lohrein, a mile short of Nowboog.

A path over the hills by Halkun Gali goes from Nowboog to the valley of Arpat river at Kutihar. A mile ahead is Achhabal whence 3 miles distant is an ancient temple near the old iron works.

Achhabal may be reached from Varynag *via* Shahabad, 12 miles. The journey is easy going.

### **Kutihar Valley**

The Valley of Kutihar lying to the north east of Achhabal is pretty and fertile. At the head of this valley is a lofty pass to the Upper W. The trip is as follows

*Achhabal to Sangam, 7 miles.* Three miles from Achhabal is Shangas village where grain, etc can be purchased and tongas can go upto this place Four miles further is Sangam

*Sangam to Nilhui.* The road is steep and there is scarcity of water on the way A limited quantity of water is available near the camp in the forest at 9,000 ft The journey takes 4 hours

*Nilhui to Chur Nag* First pass through forest and then ascend grassy plain The Nag is a small tarn at about 12,300 ft This march takes nearly 3 hours It is suggested to continue the journey to Margan Pass, 11,200 ft which is 45 minutes journey from Chur Nag where you can camp Water is available here but fuel is not near at hand Return to Nowboog the next day The march is an easy descent

There is a path across the hills to Liddar Valley at Salee from Gauran in the Kuthar Valley On the way, there is a galli of some archeological interest

### Kishtwar

Kishtwar is a hilly district to the east of Kashmir, situated on a plateaux where the rivers of Chandra-Bhaga and Wardwan meet. The hills are almost rocky and steep There are forests of pine and deodar trees below 9,000 ft Oak is also found at lower levels The routes are troublesome but according to the remarks of Dr Neve, "some of the grandest scenery in Kashmir is met with on this route (route to Kishtwar by Sinthan Pass) as there are very lofty peaks of 21,000 feet, seen rising sheer from the deep gorges of the Wardwan and Chenab "

The habitation is scattered. The people are allied to those found in Chamba districts. Mohemadons make up the major portion of the population while Kashmiris have also settled in big villages and intermarried with Kishtwaris. Formerly here lived independent Rajas of Rajput descent.

The plain of Kishtwar affords a pleasing contrast to the surrounding wildness of the mountains. The chief town is Kishtwar with a small fort, bazar, dispensary etc. From Kishtwar, several routes go to different directions. Kishtwar to Ramban is six stages and joins the Banihal cart road at Ramban whence motor journey can be taken up. Also a new road has been constructed from Batote to Kishtwar. Kishtwar also comes in the way on the route from Chamba to Kashmir.

### **Kashmir to Kishtwar.**

There are two main routes for Kishtwar from Kashmir, one by Marbal Pass 11,550 ft. and the other by Sinthan Pass, 12,300 ft. Of the two, the latter is recommended as this is a bridle road and the scenery round about is magnificent. It is covered with snow from the last week of November upto May, but traffic can go through the track leading along the nala bottom but laden ponies are difficult to pass. All arrangements for ponies, coolies and necessary provisions should be made at Anantnag or Achhabal.

#### **(A) The Marbal route**

*Anantnag to Akingam, 11 miles.* Upto Achhabal, the road is fit for cars. Akingam is a big village,



2½ miles beyond Achhabal, (Achhabal alt 5,450 ft -  
RH, P O., E, F, G, S, T, W )

*Akingam to Wangam, 12 miles.* It is 5 hours journey Wangam is a large village, (alt 6,600 ft, E, F, S, T, G, W ) From Wangam, Soondbrar may be visited, one hour journey

*Wangam to Karabudrum, 10 miles.* Up the Marbal glen is forest At 8,500 ft is a beautiful meadow, Wakinringi Ahead is Karabudrum, a small meadow with a few gujar huts about 2½ furlongs up the side valley, (alt 9,200 ft F, F, G, W, ). (5 hours journey).

*Camp (Karabudrum) to Singpur, 12 miles.* Firstly steep ascent upto 11,550 ft. then steep descent follows to snow in ravine Here the true alpine-rose (rose rhododendron) is found The scenery is picturesque. The path passes through forest Singpur is a large village, (alt 6,680 ft. E, F, G, W ) Good camping site is under elms

*Singpur to Mogal Maidan, 11 miles.* Descend to Chatru Here meet with Sinthan Pass route There are few scattered huts with scanty supplies and no coolies available at Mogal Maidan, (alt 3,950 ft E, F, G, W ) (5 hours journey)

*Mogal Maidan to Kishtwar, see below*

### (B) The Sinthan Route.

*Islamabad to Kothair, 10 miles.* Kothair is a village, three miles beyond Achhabal Upto Achhabal one can motor Here is an ancient Hindu ruin, (S, T, E, F, G, W.)

*Kothair to Doosoo, 12 miles* The road passes through fine scenery Cross the Nowbug valley. Further 2 miles up the side valley is Doosoo or Dyes. A mile above the village is forest rest house on the marg A little ahead, there are some fine camping plots at Rajparan and Dhaksun, (Dyes alt 7,400 ft. S, T, E, F, G, W)

*Doosoo to Sinthan, 14 miles* The distance is 11 miles only by footpath There is gentle ascent throughout Pass Rajparan Cross a low ridge Then pass Kodan camping ground. Keeping to the left up Harshan glen, reach Sinthan Pass, 12,300 ft. The foot path is accessible up the Nullah on snow till late in summer You can easily descend to Sinthan glen There is a forest rest house at Sinthan and also some gujar huts

*Sinthan to Chhatru, 13 miles* The path is steady ascending Pass Tsingam mile 7 Chhatru is a small village Supplies and few coolies are available Camp between the stream and the road The Marbal route is joined here at Chhatru, (alt 4,820 ft FRH, E, F, G, W)

*Chhatru to Kishtwar, 16 miles* This is a sufficiently long march It is recommended to halt at Mogalmaidam, 5 miles down Chhatru Beyond Mogalmaidam, the scenery is excellent. After 4 miles, the Wardwan river is joined Cross it after 2 miles Further after  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles recross the Chandra Bhaga river at a beautiful gorge Henceforth is a steady ascent (5,000 ft) till you reach Kishtwar, (alt 5,360 ft S, T, E, F, G, W, RH, O, P, Q)

*Remarks* It is suggested to camp at Rajparan or Kodan *vide* Doosoo to Sinthan stage and reach Tsingam thus making 19 miles as supplies are scanty From Tsingam, you can march to Mogalmaidan whence Kishtwar is 11 miles

While coming back from Kishtwar to Kashmir, it is recommended to camp at Tsingam (Chingas) and to camp above Sinthan or forest rest house at the foot of the pass and next day to Doosoo

### **Batote to Kishtwar.**

There are two routes one by the left bank of the Chenab river and the other by the right one The former is better as side streams are bridged and is also convenient for ponies

#### **(A) Route by left bank**

*Batote to Assar, 14 miles* For Batote see pages 22 & 29 There is a good pony road by the left bank of the Chenab Assar is a small village, (alt 3,130 ft S, T F, E, G, W)

*Assar to Khaleni, 8 miles* Road is fairly good Khaleni is a small village, (alt 3,800 ft, P O, E, S, F, G, W, and poor RH & T)

*Khaleni to Bhela, 14 miles* Ford Bach Nala, pass Doda suspension bridge, mile 2 Cross Niru bridge at mile 3 Road is fair Bhela is a small village, (alt 4,100 ft E, RH, S, \* T, \* F, \* G, \* W \*)

*Bhela to Jangalwar, 10 miles* Road is fair Sufficient cultivation is seen in the valleys Jangalwar is a village, (alt 3,860 ft FRH, E, S, T, F, G, W)

*Jangalwar to Kaini, 11 miles* Road is fair. Kaini is a hamlet, (alt 3,400 ft E, F, G, W)

*Kaini to Kishtwar, 11 miles* Cross Gan Nala The road is fair and after 11 miles journey is Kishtwar

### (B) Route by the right bank.

*Batote to Khaleni* See above

*Khaleni to Dongru, 15 miles* Road is fair Cross Doda suspension bridge Pass Doda Post-office Cross Udhampur Nala, mile 6 and Gudetar Nala, mile 14 and a mile on is Dongru It is a hamlet, (alt 3,700, F, G, W, L)

*Dongru to Barshalu, 10 miles* The road is fair up the Chenab valley Barshalu is a hamlet, (alt 3,440, I, F, G, W, S<sup>+</sup>)

*Barshalu to Kaini, 10 miles* The road is bad in some places Cross Chenab bridge, mile 9

*Kaini to Kishtwar* See above

### Kishtwar to Ramban

*First march* Cross the rivers Chandra Baga and Wardwan Walk 5 miles along the road to Kashmir Ascend the ridge opposite to Keshwan The march takes 8 hours

*Second march* Cross two ridges and reach Brut, 15 miles from first stage

*Third march* Descend for two hours Cross a ridge and again descend to Doda, a large village, 15 miles From here on the opposite side path goes to Chamba via Bhadarwah

*Fourth march* The first part of the journey is easy but the second part is a steep ascent. Then comes Kastigarh 10 miles.

*Fifth march* First ascend and then descend to Rajgarh, 12 miles.

*Sixth march* This is a tiresome one with several ascents and descents. Ramban is 16 miles from the previous stage.

### **To Marau *via* Hoksar Pass.**

The Marau route branches off from the Marbal route at Harshan glen and passes over Hoksar Pass. Dosoo to Harshan glen is 8 miles. Harshan glen to Kulnag is 14 miles with an ascent of 2,000 ft. followed by a descent. Kulnag to Marau is 11 miles with a climb of 2,500 ft.

## **Bhadarwah**

Bhadarwah is an important private *jagir* of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of the State and is feudatory to Kashmir Durbar. Its annual income is about 25 lacs of rupees. Bhadarwah is the chief town, with a bazar, fort, palace, large temple and mosques. Agriculture is the main profession of the people, while others weave shawls. Apples, pears, apricots, mulberry and cherries are also good. The climate and produce of the country resemble those of Kashmir in some respects and hence the country is often spoken as Chota (Little) Kashmir.

The chief routes are as follows

### **Batoti to Bhadarwah.**

*Batoti to Khaleni* See page 134

*Khaleni to Khalhini, 11 miles* Leave Nuru river bank Cross bridges over Kan Khela and Bhalela tributaries and ascend spur. Khalhini is a village, (alt 4,800 ft. RH, E, F, S, T, G, W)

*Khalhini to Bhadarwah, 11 miles* Descend spur Pass Dranga, mile 6 Road is fair along Nuru river bank, (alt. 5,400 ft RH, P.O., C, F, F, S, T, G W, dispy)

### Kishtwar to Bhadarwah.

*Kishtwar to Kainini, 11 miles* Road fair along Chenab river nala, Kainini is a hamlet, (alt 3 400 ft E, F, G, W)

*Kainine to Jushane, 11 miles* Road is fair along Chenab river bank Jushane is a small village (alt 4,700 ft. F, I, S, T, G, W)

*Jushane to Jangalwar, 9 miles* Road as above Cross Kuli Gad and Thatri bridges Jangalwar is a small village. (alt 3,860 ft E, F, S, T, G, W, FRII)

*Jangalwar to Jaura, 9 miles* Road with ups and downs Ascend Ghallu or Chire Pass, 7,723 ft. Descend to Jaura village, (alt 6,730 ft S, T, F, I, G, W)

*Jaura to Bhadarwah, 17 miles* The winter road passes Jai, mile 9 The summer road passes Sawan Dhan ridge and Berot nala (Bhadarwah alt 5,400 ft RH, P.O., O, E, I, S, T G, W, dispy)

## CHAPTER XIV

### PIR PANJAL ROUTE FOR KASHMIR

**T**HIS route is an old Moghul Imperial road and prior to the construction of the Rawalpindi cart-road through the Jhelum valley, it was as good a road as any to Kashmir. It passes amid the grandest scenery but the facilities which were provided before are now not available and the road beyond Baramgala over the pass to Shupian is now rougher and difficult in places. The journey, on the whole, is tiresome but will be remembered ever after with pleasure because of the beautiful scenery in the way. A few pedestrians take up this route. The pass is closed by snow from about mid-November to mid-April and during this time a detour *via* Poonch is usually made. During July and August, small bridges are liable to be washed away and rivers may be unfordable for some days. The latter portion of the journey from Shupian to Srinagar, 35 miles, may be covered by motor.

The start is made from Gujrat. It is a large town, 700 ft. above sea level and a Station on N.W. Railway.

*Gujrat to Bhimber, 28 miles* The country is level and can be travelled in a motor. Pass Harbaspur, mile 4. Cross Bhandar Nala, mile 6½. Pass

Daulatnagar, a large village, (alt 900 ft. P O, E, F, G, W, S DB), mile 11½ At mile 19½, pass Kotla (alt 1,050 ft S, E, F, G, W, RH, P O dispy,) Cross Bhumbar ford and enter Bhumbar town alt 1,060 ft RH, C E P O, dispy S T F, G, W )

*Bhimbar to Sadsbad, 11 miles* Pass Uchili valley, mile 4 Ascend steeply onwards, cross Kal Dhar range by the Adriana Gala, 2,986 ft Descend through pine forest to Sandoa, mile 9 Cross Uchili Nala and enter Sadsbad, a small village, (alt 2,010 ft. P O C, E RH, S, T F, G, W )

*Sadsbad to Naushera, 10 miles* Good road upto Jogi Hathuan Kas, then steep ascent over Kaman Gosha Gali, 2,999 ft mile 5 The view of the Pir Panjal is splendid. Cross Jambhur river Naushera is a small town with a fort and tehsil on the bank of the river Tawi (alt 1,820 ft P O RH, C, E, S, F G, W )

*Naushera to Chingas Sarai, 12 miles* Cross Tain Dhar spur, mile 2 Pass Nadpur, mile 5 The road is fairly good (through Tawi valley) The view of the snowy peaks to the north east is very grand. The main peaks of the Pir Panjal are Darial Dome, Sunset peak and Tatakuti, all over 15,000 ft Chingas Sarai is a small village (alt 2,400 ft RH C P O S E F, W )

*Chingas Sarai to Rejsori, 14 miles.* The path ascends up the valley. The scenery is fine throughout. Pass Dalogra mile 8 and Nadpur mile 10. Ford Tawi river. Rejsori Rampur is a town with a barar and tehsil alt 5,000 ft RH C P O S E F, W )



*Rajaori to Thanamandi, 14 miles* Cross streams several times Scenery is grand throughout the way It is pleasant to walk in the morning Pass Fatehpur, mile 4 Opposite Thanamandi is the Ratan Pir Thanamandi is a big village, (alt 4,903 ft RH, E, G, S, T, F, G, W) Here is a Sarai in ruinous state, built after Moghul style

*Thanamandi to Baramgala, 10½ miles* There is a steep ascent and steep descent Cross Ratan Pir, 8,158 ft about half way Deodar, chestnut and other trees abound Baramgala is a small village with a fort (Alt 6050 ft RH, O, E, T, F, G, W, S \*)

A road branches from Thanamandi-Baramagal road, some distance beyond Thanamandi, to Poonch

*Baramgala to Poshiana, 8½ miles* The road ascends up the Suran valley Several waterfalls are met on the way, the best is at Baramgala, a few minutes walk from the dak bungalow Several streams are crossed Leaving the valley, there is a steep ascent to the small village of Poshiana, (alt 8,150 ft. RH, O, E, G, F, T, \* W \*)

*Poshiana to Aliabad Sarai, 12 miles.* The track passes through wooded slopes of Ganta Par Cross Chitta Pani, mile 4 Below this is "Sunset peak" Ascend to Pir Panjal Pass, 11,462 ft mile 7

There are shelter huts and a watch tower at the summit of the pass The mountains on either side rise upto 15,000 ft Even the fir and birch trees are not present here The snow remains here till May As soon as snow melts away, the plateaux is covered with Alpine flowers and rich grass which look beautiful There are lichens, mosses and rocks above the

pass Tatakuti to the north-west and Konsarnag to the east are the highest points of the Pir Panjal Range. Also immediately above the Pass to the north-west is the lofty "Sunset Peak" which may be climbed from Kashmir side. There are many small lakes (Tarns) on the summits but none visible from the pass. Descend gently from the pass to Ahabad Sarai, mile 5. Here is an old Moghul rest house, (alt 10,000 ft RH, C, I, F, G, W)

*Allabad Sarai to Hirpur, 12 miles* The track descends along the Rembiara river. Path becomes slippery during rains. Pass Sokh sarai, mile 6. Here is a good camping ground. You may come here in one march from Poshiana, a distance of  $20\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Pass Dubjan, mile 8. The scenery is fine. Meadows are studded with brilliant flowers like an English wood and fir glades. Hirpur or Hurapur is a small village on the bank of Rembiara (alt 7,600, RH, C, E, B, T, F, G, W)

*Hirpur to Shupiyon via Sedau is about 13 miles* The famous Aharbal Falls may be seen from Sedau, the trip takes one day (page 122). The Konsar Nag Lake can also be seen from Sedau and the trip takes about 3 days (page 122)

*Hirpur to Shupiyon, 8 miles* The road is fair and passes along the bank of Rembiara river. Shupiyon is a town with a tehsil, bazar and headquarters of the district, (alt 6,700 ft, RH, C, F, P O, dispy, S, T, F, G, W). Shupiyon is situated on a raised ground and from some parts of it, a fine view of the valley from Islamabad to Srinagar, with rocky snow capped ranges bordering Ladakh, can be seen

blocked by drift snow and in that case old road is used Uri is a stage on Jhelum valley cart-road where motor journey can be taken up for Kashmir See 27

*Remarks.* Arrangement of transport and supplies should be made at Poonch or Uri The Haji Pir pass remains closed from December to March

### Poonch.

Poonch is an important *jagir* of the State, feudatory to His Highness Maharaja of Kashmir The ruler is a *dogra* Raja, allied in caste with the ruling Maharaja of Kashmir At the time of the treaty of 1846 between Maharaja Goolab Singh and the British Raja Jawahir Singh was the ruler of Poonch It was not recognised independent of Jammu, hence Jawahir Singh became a vassal of his uncle, Goolab Singh

Poonch, of the same name, is the capital town situated at the angles of the two rivers of Suran and Bitarh at 3,300 ft above the sea level The fort, palace, gardens and minagerie are worth a visit Black bear abounds in the hills and fishing in the streams The climate is hot in summer Rest house, Post and Telegraph offices etc , are present Trade is carried on in agricultural products The territory is 1,594 square miles in extent.

Its annual income is approximately 12 lacs of rupees There are about two and a half lacs of people living in the state Rice, *banafsha*, wheat, maize, walnut, apricot, potato etc , are the main crops

grown There are two Victoria and Islamia High Schools at Poonch The whole state is divided into four tehsil (sub division) under a governor residing at Poonch

### **Poonch to Srinagar.**

There are several routes from Poonch to Srinagar The popular route is *via* Uri as described on page 142 The route *via* Chhoti Gali (pass), as below, is an accessible entrance into Kashmir The road is rough in some places and difficult for pack animals The route is open from July to October but during rains, rivers are difficult to cross For other routes, see route tables at the end

*Poonch to Baramgala, see page 143*

*Baramgala to Bagla, 10 miles* The road is gradual ascending Cross Suran river Pass Chandimar, miles  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Ascend Alatopa spur Pass Baranari, mile 8 Bagla is a hamlet (alt 10,100 ft F, R, G, W)

*Bagla to Khanchi Kol, 14 miles* The path is steady and gradual ascending Cross Chhoti Gali pass, 14,103 ft Further descend to Magru Sar (lake) Cross Katsgalu pass,, 13,892 ft Khanchi Kol is a hamlet, (alt 9,000 ft E, F, G, W)

*Khanchi Kol to Pakharpur, 11 miles* Road is fair through Khanchi Kol valley Pakharpur is a village, (alt 6,530 ft E, F, S, T, G, W)

*Pakharpur to Khampur, 10 miles* Road is fair Pass Tsar Sharif, a town, mile 5, P O present Khampur is a village, (alt 5 520 ft. C, E, F, T, G, W, S<sup>2</sup>)

*Khampur to Srinagar, 13 miles.* The road is easy Join Srinagar-Shupiyon, Road, (page 142).

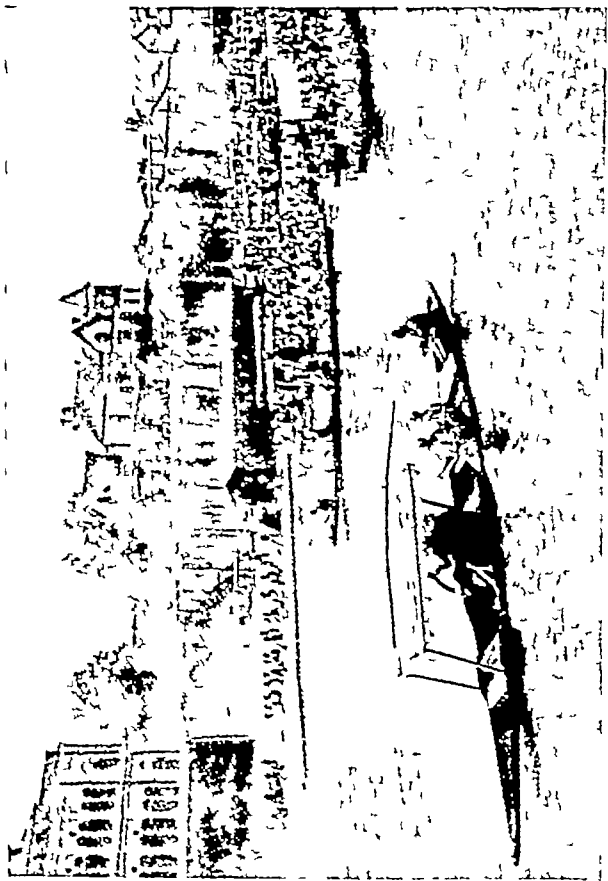
*Remarks.* From Magru Sar, two routes diverge, both are practicable for pack animals One goes to Nilnag *via* Sangsafed, Frasnag and Yusmaidan.

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## THE GREAT WATERWAY OF KASHMIR.

The River Jhelum is the great waterway of Kashmir in which lakes, fountains, streams and rivers drop down in a manner forming an arterial system to the Happy Vale of Kashmir The Kashmir natives call it Vyath, a corrupted Sanskrit word of Vetasta It takes its source from Varynag springs (page 89). It unites with streams at Anantnag (Islamabad) At Baramulla, the river is on an average about 100 yds broad and 10 ft deep The course of the river is almost serpentine and it expands and deepens into the Wular Lake There are alluvial plains dotted with villages on both sides of the river On the south side, there are plateaus about 1,000 ft. high above the level of the river bed, alluvial in origin

The river plain is level and slope is uniform, as for example, it is 55 ft. higher at Srinagar than at Sopore and 150 ft. higher at Anantnag than at Srinagar The Jhelum receives numerous streams on the left bank, the large ones being Suknag from the neighbourhood of Gulmarg, Dudhganga from Ludarmarg, (Dudhganga meets in the south of Srinagar), Rembiara from Pir Panjal Pass and Veshau from Konsarnag, (Veshau meets below



PLEASURE TRIP ON THE JHELUM,



Bijbehara) These tributaries almost drain the slopes of the Pır Panjal and are comparatively smaller than those which meet the Jhelum on the right bank and some of them coming to the plains, are lost in the marshes. The tributaries, on the right bank, drain hilly tracts as far as Zoji Pass and the largest of them are the Lidar and Sind, while smaller ones are the Pohru (draining the Lolab and Kajrag slopes), Bandipur, Erin, Arrah, and Harbuj.

### **The River Excursion.**

Boats can go in the downward direction as far as Baramulla and in up direction as far as Anantnag, a distance of 80 miles. Baramulla is a big town of the valley and is situated on the banks of the Jhelum. It is dangerous to go below Baramulla as the stream becomes too rapid. According to Rajtarangni, Suyya, a great engineer of the time of King Avantivarman, deepened the gorge below Baramulla to safeguard against floods. A similar attempt was made by European engineers in 1902 but was unsuccessful. Later on the construction of electric dredgers have made considerable relief.

In front of the ruined Sikh fort at Baramulla, there is a big bridge built after Kashmir style. Nearby is an old carvan-sarai. Some famous springs, with sulphurated hydrogen, are present here. There is an old gate way, being the remains of an ancient fort and a temple in a tank. See page 27 as well. Apples are predominating fruit of the orchards in the neighbourhood of Baramulla.

About seven miles above Baramulla is Dubgam,



a little village on the right bank of the Jhelum with which Pohru river from the Lolab meets here

Sopore is a flourishing town on the banks of the Jhelum about 8 miles from Baramulla by road. The river is here sufficiently broad. Sopore is the starting place for trips to Lolab, Nagmarg, Gulmarg etc. The neighbourhood of Sopore is swampy but its climate is healthy and the breeze refreshing coming from the Wular lake. For Wular, see page 66.

The boats can go direct from Sopore to Shadipur *via* Nuru canal when the river is high and thus the Wular is avoided or touched merely on its outer banks. From east of Naidkhai is a canal which leads to below Sumbal whence the ancient ruins of Anderkot may easily be visited. From Sumbal, Manasbal lake surrounded by Ahateng Hill may be visited. Sumbal is a good place for fishing and encampment near the bridge under chinar groves. Some six miles above is Shadipur which is a good place for mooring house boats in Sind water. See page 67. From here ruins of Pariasapura can also be seen.

A few hours up journey is Ganderbal on Sind river. This is a good place for mooring house boats see page 63. From here, Baba Darya Din *via* Shahpur, ascending to 8,000 ft and coming down to springs and shrine, may be visited in one day. Sind is navigable upto Ganderbal. Srinagar can be reached through Anchar lake (page 65). While going through Mar canal, Dal lake with the famous gardens on its bank may be visited (pages 53 & 58).

One can also go to Srinagar direct from Shadipur (page 67 )

Time that will take in the journey from Baramulla to Srinagar depends upon the kind of boat, direction of the flow and number of rowers etc Also see page 67 A doonga boat takes half a day from Baramulla to Sopore and one and a half days from Sopore to Srinagar *via* Nuru Canal and two days more in case Wular lake is crossed *enroute* Going down takes less time A good Shikara boat reaches Wular in 10 hours and Sopore *via* Nuru Canal in 11 hours and Baramulla is further 3 hours' journey As a general rule, doonga boats take double this time

It is recommended to leave Sopore in the morning and moor at Ningal till early morning and Wular may be crossed early in the day

From Srinagar to Anantnag see page 126

## CHAMBA TO KASHMIR.

Chamba is a native State watered by the River Ravi under the Punjab The climate of Chamba is charming Chamba, of the same name, is the capital town with a broad bazar situated at 3030 ft above the sea level

The main route to Chamba starts from Pathankote, a station on N W Rly, (alt 1090 ft DB, hotels, P O, T O, etc ) Pathankote to Dalhousie is 52 miles and road is motorable The road ascends gradually and passes cultivated country Pass Dunera, a village, (alt 2250 ft DB P O, S, T, E, F, G, W), mile Further the road is zigzag Pass Bakloh Cantor'

situated 1000 ft above the road Dalhousie is a Civil and Military Station, possessing a healthy climate and situated 6000 ft above the sea-level. Hotels, hospital, post and telegraph offices etc are present The rest eighteen miles can be travelled on ponies or foot. Dalhousie to Khajiar is 10 miles The road is steep ascending and easy descending Cross Bathri Gala, 8000 ft., Kalatop forest and descend Khajiar is a stage, (alt. 6000 ft DB) Next eight miles are easy up to Chamba, (alt 3030 ft E, F, G, W, S, T) Further on is as follows

*Chamba to Sundla, 13 miles.* The road is good along the banks of the Ravi Cross the Pukhri spur, mile 8 Descend to Seul valley, mile 12 Sundla is a small village, (E, F, G, W, S, T, RH)

*Sundla to Kehar, 14 miles.* The road is up and down Cross Seul river and ascend Kehar is a village, (alt. 5290 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, RH)

*Kehar to Langer, 12 miles.* The road is along the river bank Pass Bhandal, a beautiful village, mile 3 (FRH, present) From mile 6, the road is steep ascending Langer is a hamlet, (alt 7250 ft E, F, G, W, FRH, S\*, T\*)

*Langer to Thanala, 13 miles.* The road is rough Ascend Khundi Maral, mile 5 and then Padri Gali, 9922 ft at mile 10 Further descend. Thanala is a village with iron mines, (alt. 6740 ft E, F, G, W, S\*, T\*)

*Thanala to Bhadarwah, 8 miles.* The journey is easy through cultivated valley

*Bhadarwah to Kishtwar, see page 137.*

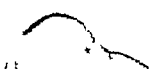
*Kishtwar to Kashmir, see page 131.*

## CHAPTER XV

### LADAKH.

**L**ADAKH is a large tract of mountainous country in the east of the Vale of Kashmir, often spoken as Tibet. In no place it is below 8000 ft and mountain ranges are 17,000 ft. to 21,000 ft with peaks reaching up to 25,000 ft. The mountainous region of Ladakh, as a whole, regarding its height is easiest in the world. The snow line is above 18,000 ft and snow fall is little. The rivers are shallow and valleys are silted up. The people live on the plateaux and valley but a large population lives at elevations between 12,000 ft and 15,000 ft above the sea level which constitute the loftiest inhabited districts in the world. Dr Neve says, "Ladakh is a country with peculiar charms, utterly destitute of the verdant beauty of Kashmir, yet its lofty sandy plains and rugged granite ridges have beauties which all who have once been there can appreciate."

Ladakh has always been a place of attraction to sportsmen, the land being regarded as the home of Markhor and Ibex. Red bear, snow leopard, wild sheep, antelope, marmot, etc., are also found here. Ladakh is the chief centre of trade routes between Tibet and Western Asia, Yarkand and India. Ladakh is also a place of interest for scientific and political travellers.



Politically, Ladakh is a division of the State lying between the Himalaya and the Kuen Len mountains, and between Baltistan and Chinese Tibet and constitutes Rupshu, Zaskar, Middle Ladakh, Nubra, and plateau south of Karakoram. The division is under a *Wazir-i Wazarat*, who is responsible for Baltistan and the three *tehsils* of the division namely, Skardu, Kargil and Ladakh.

On the frontier of Ladakh and Gilgit, there are several chiefs of petty states, feudatory to His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir. These states do not form a part of Kashmir state but acknowledge the suzerainty of Kashmir and are under the direct charge of a Political officer of Govt of India, residing at Gilgit.

Buddhism is the main religion of the people belonging almost to the sect of Red Lamas, while there are some Mohammadan colonies as well. Buddhist monastries are the most conspicuous buildings in Ladakh. They are not so rich or large as they were before the Dogra annexation of Ladakh. The Hemis Monastery is the famous one situated 24 miles away from Leh. Visitors will be delighted to see the devil dances during the Hemis festival which is annually held here towards the end of June.

The people are short, sturdy and ugly, belonging to Mongolian type. They are below 5 ft except in the Nubra valley. Men usually wear a long cloak, loose trousers and woollen caps with ear flaps, while the women long gowns, cloaks and cloth caps. The monks and nuns wear a yellow cap and remain shaven heads. The people are



U.L.P.H

PEOPLE OF LADAKH ON THEIR SNOWY PATH

LADAKH



honest and simple minded Here exists the curious system of polyandry among the people (the eldest son of a family chooses a wife and his brothers become her minor husbands) This system is accounted due to restricted amount of cultivated land The population of Ladakh is about 186,000

There is a climate of extremes in Ladakh being very hot in summer, due to rocky and sandy tracts, and intense cold similar to Arctic regions in winter Agriculture and sheep grazing are the main professions of the people The villages are almost confined to the banks of the rivers Cultivation is carried on with the help of the canal irrigation as the rainfall is scanty and there are only a few showers of rain in summer Barley, wheat, buckwheat, peas, rapeseed, beans, turnips and lucerne are the chief crops grown Grim, a kind of loose grained barley is much cultivated which flourishes upto an altitude of 14,900 ft Apples and apricots are found in warmer districts below 9,000 ft

In central Ladakh, crops ripen in August and September In Lower Ladakh, two crops can be raised annually as the heat is great During this time apples and walnuts also ripen The sun heat is still greater on higher plateaux and consequently crops ripen upto an altitude of 14,000 ft while in Kashmir crops fail to ripen above 7,000 ft It is remarkable to note that the thermometer reads 25° higher at Leh than in the plains of India

The farmers plough the field by zho, a hybrid between the common cow and the Yak Yarkandir



Argoon, Hindus from Kulu and Hoshiarpur and Mohammedans of Purig mostly handle the business. A considerable trade is carried on in agricultural produce. Salt is exported to Skardu and Kashmir in exchange for tobacco, grains, fruits and ponies. But the main trade products of the country is wool. All the best quality wool comes from Ladakh for the celebrated and world famed Kashmir Shawls.

The Indus is the largest and longest river that flows through Ladakh and Baltistan. Originating from Chinese Tibet, it flows through an open sandy valley on the Chinese Frontier but an influx of Hanle river makes it a rushing torrent. In Ladakh, it becomes a considerable stream and at Leh, it widens sufficiently but after leaving Leh, it becomes confined and runs through narrow gorge. It passes through Gilgit, (Bunji & Chilas) and enters the Punjab Province. The Zaskar river is also of equal size to Indus. The Shyok is also equal to Indus before it meets with Indus at Skardu. Mr Shawe has estimated that the discharge of the Indus at Leh is 6,000 gallons per second in winter and 54,000 gallons per second in summer. The Indus with Shyok discharges 250,000 gallons per second in summer.

### **The History.**

The History of Ladakh, before the Dogra annexation, is closely connected with Tibet as the major portion of today's Ladakh has been under the Tibetan Kings and with which country it is still in commercial relationship. Prior to Tibet subjugation, researches have revealed that Hindus

and Chinese also ruled over Ladakh. The 'Mons' (Indo-Aryan Tribe) were the rulers of Western Ladakh and Zaskar in the Pre-Buddhist period. The Dards of Gilgit and Astor also came up so far as to Leh at some other time and is ascertained by their sculptures and drawings found at Khalatse and Hanupatar. Sir Aurel Stein's researches at Khotan and Lob Nor desert account that northern irrigable slopes of Karakoram were partially settled with an Indian race. History confirms this as Kanishk and his successors (2nd Century B.C.), Mihirakula, White Hun (Sixth Century A.D.) etc., ruled so far north. And in the 7th Century, Lalitaditya conquered Ladakh.

By the tenth century, the Tibetan power was at its climax and kings of Central Tibet ruled over Ladakh, a tract from Manasarovar to Zaskar La for a long period. The people were almost converted to Lamaism. The old Bonchos demon worship in Ladakh was almost replaced by Lamaism up to 1,300 A.D. In 1610, Sengge Namgyal invaded Central Tibet. The Moghuls also invaded the country. The Tibetans resisted the attack very bravely, but the Ladakh power began to decline henceforth.

In the 17th century, Derga, the King of Ladakh sought the help of the then Emperor of India, Shah Jahan and also with the help of the Mohammedans who held Balistan and Purig, the Lamas were defeated and their Lama Kingdom was extinguished from Ladakh.

Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of Kashmir and Jammu State made conquest between the years 1834 and 1842 and annexed Ladakh, Baltistan and Western Tibet. It was Zorawar Singh, the brave, a Lieutenant of Maharaja Gulab Singh who subdued the Kings of Ladakh, Baltistan etc. He also made an expedition to Central Tibet being attracted by the hoardes of gold of Lhasa but he was unsuccessful and experienced the same fate as the British on their retreat from Kabul. The treaty of the time of Deleg with Lhasa was resumed and Maharaja of Kashmir agreed to send embassies with presents to Lhasa every third year. To this day, a close connection between Kashmir and Lhasa through the Monks still exists and both are consulted in foreign politics.

Ladakh automatically came to Maharaja Gulab Singh as it was already in his possession, when the treaty, which gave him Kashmir and confirmed his possessions, was signed between the British and the Maharaja, (see page 15). After the Dogra annexation, thousands of monks left the country for Tibet.

### **The Capital of Ladakh.**

Leh is the capital of the Ladakh province, situated in the Indus valley at an altitude of 11,000 ft. It is one of the highest inhabited places in India and is the starting point of a trade route to Eastern Turkestan across the Karakoram Pass. The old palace of Sengge Namgyal, the great idol Maitreya in a monastery, the 'Chorten on yellow crag' and the longest *manu* wall in the country at

Tewar gorge about 850 paces long etc , are objects worth a visit The Hemis festival at Hemis Monastery is worth a journey

Dr A Neve's remarks about Leh are worth reading, "whether as the western capital of Lamaism, with its Lamaseras, Chortens and Manis, or as the centre of the Yarkand and Tibetan traffic, with its interesting articles of commerce and quaint figures of many nationalities Leh is a place abounding in attraction for lovers of the picturesque "

A British Joint Commissioner, assistant to Srinagar Resident, is stationed at Leh, and supervises the traffic There is a Moravian Mission which has a church, hospital, Bishop and school Also there are moravian missions at Kailang and Po in Ladakh Hospital, granary, offices of post and telegraph, rest house, caravan sarai and fort are present in Leh Leh is nearly rainless as it is untouched by the monsoon standing behind the Himalayas

*Permission is indispensable to be taken from the Kashmir Govt to travel beyond Kargil, the limit of travel in the direction of Ladakh. See appendix for details*

### **Srinagar to Leh**

There are several routes from Srinagar to Leh viz (1) Leh to Srinagar by Treaty High road, via Zojila, 234 miles (2) via Inshan, Suru, Ringdom, 293 miles , (4) via Petgam, Chilung Pass, 312 miles Out of them, the first route is the direct and most popular

## **The Treaty High Road to Leh.**

This route remains closed for pony transport in winter and opens towards the end of May. The snow falls around the pass from October to middle of May. It may fall several inches during October to December but the pass remains clear except a few days for ponies till December. It is recommended to cross the pass before day light and in early mornings. Also it is recommended to keep Dras ponymen as they are sturdy and hard. When bridges are washed away, rivers are forded.

There are small dak huts on the way at frequent intervals to keep the traffic open in winter. The rates of transport are fixed for ponies and coolies from 15th May to 25th November (see appendix). Before and after these dates, the travellers must settle their own terms with the coolies who may ask from Rs 5 to 10 per head for four marches from Gund to Dras. Laden ponies seldom cross the pass before June. The Kashmir portion of the road is green, while hills are devoid of vegetation and journey hot in summer beyond Zoji La and appearance becomes more Tibetan. There are two more easy passes of Namika La and Fotu La.

*Srinagar to Ganderbal.* See page 63

*Ganderbal to Baltal* See page 94

*Baltal to Matayan, 15 miles.* Ascend Zojibul Nallah. Ascend steeply to Zoji La; 11,578 ft. There is a good camping ground at Kanipater, 3½ miles from Baltal. Pass dak shelter, mile 4. In winter and spring till mid of June, travellers ascend rock

bound ravine where snow is accumulated Descend gradually eastward A path goes to Amar Nath by the New Gumber rest house at mileage 71 (page 98). Pass Mechoi or Mitsahoi, mile 9 (RH E,C,T O, (winter), present) Pass Minimarg, mile 11 From here, a path leads up the Nullah to Wardwan for sportsmen; (a pass is crossed second day and Pujhoi is reached the third day This route is difficult when there are snow bridges) Matayan is a small village with few huts Snow lies here on hill sides upto June, (alt 10,430 ft, RH,C,E,W, S\*,F\*,G\*,)

*Matayan to Dras*, 12½ miles There is gradual descent Cross bridge over Gumber river at village, Pindras, mile 6 Another six miles journey opens in the valley of Dras Cross Mushki and Marpo Chu bridges at mile 11½ and 12 respectively Before Dras, pass a Sikh fort and poplar plantation Dras is a large village with groups of huts scattered over a broad valley Its people are almost Dards and Baltis The Tibetan name of Dras is Hembabas. (Alt 10,144 ft, RH,C,E, T O, P O, S,T, F,G,W )

*Dras to Shimsha Kharbu*, 20 miles, The road is rough for 7 miles down the valley Further, it narrows and bends northeastward to Dundul Thang Pass Tashgam, an old stage, mile 15 Here is a good camping ground Cross the Dras river by cantilever suspension bridge and thence to Kharbu, (Alt 9,250 ft, RH,C,E,W, S\*,T\*,G\*,) Camping in compound within 100 yds of RH is recommended

*S Kharbu to Kargil*, 15 miles Ascend over a spur Pass confluence of Dras and Shingo rivers,

mile 5½ The Shingo nullah leads up to Deosai plateaux where are found bears and other game Pass large village of Kirkitchu on the opposite bank mile 8 from Kharbu, The valley broadens beyond Chunagund mile 10 and the scenery is fine Further, the road is bad Pass Kharal suspension bridge over Suru river, mile 12 The village is a little distance beyond the bridge The road to Skardu crosses and follows down the river, while the Leh road keeps to the right along the Suru river which is too swift, shallow and broad upto Kargil

Kargil is a small town and capital of Parik under the administration of Baltistan There is fort and tehsil as well Its inhabitants are almost Ladakhis having Muslim faith

The view of the surrounding mountains is grand The Suru district is to the south of the valley through which a route leads to the Wardwan *via* Batkol pass In the east across the hills is Hamboting La pass, 13,500 ft which leads to Lalun village, 7 hours march (This is a short route to Shyok), (Kargil altitude, 8,790 ft, RH, O, E, T O, P O dispy, S, T, F, G, W)

*Kargil to Maulba Chamba, 22 miles* Cross the Suru bridge, one mile above fort Leave it and take road by right bank of the Wakka Chu to a sandy plateaux Pass Pashkyum, a large village and fort, mile 7 This is the spot where the Dogras became successful and annexed the country thereafter Cross Wakka Chu by bridge Further the road narrows and the scene becomes grander Pass Latsun, mile 13 The long march can be halved at

at Lotsun, whence a difficult track goes to the Indus below Dah *via* Bula La. A path also branches from here for Lalun plain, 7 hours march. The road continues good. Pass Shergol, mile 18. Buddhists are firstly seen here. The geology of the tract from Kargil to Maulba Chamba or Mulbekh (such as geology of sandstone rocks) is of great interest for geologists. Mulbekh is a large village at the foot of a spire like rock. There is a Lamasery or Buddhist monastery, (alt 10,500 ft., RH, C, F S, T, F, G, W.) Camping on pologround opposite RH is recommended.

*Maulba Chamba to Bod Kharbu*, 14½ miles. The road is fair throughout. Leave Wakka Chu valley and ascend gradually to Namika La, pass, 12,200 ft. at mile 7. Descend gradually along Sangeluma-Chu stream to Khangral. Ascend right bank of the stream to Kharbu which is a group of several villages of which Kharbu is the chief. On the ridges at Kharbu are some ruins of old castles. There is also a rock with several buildings called Stacktse, in ruinous state, on the other side of the river. These are almost of the time of King Deldon (1620-1640 A.D.) when Kharbu was a scene of some fights. Kharbu is situated in a pretty valley. Down the valley towards north, there is an old castle of Chigtan whence the sultan of Chigtan ruled Purig. (Kharbu alt 11,200 ft., RH, C, E, S, T, F, G, W.)

*Bod Kharbu to Lamayuru*, 14½ miles. Ascend gradually up the Sangeluma or Kanje valley. A route turns to the south to Kanje. Cross the ridge to right bank. Before you reach Hinis Kut, mile 7, you cross the boundary of Ladakh. At mile 10, pass



Fotu La pass, 13432, the view is splendid from here Easy descent follows upto Lamayuru This is a big village with granary and monastery on the top of some low cliffs This is worth a visit, and also the image of Chumrezig should be seen (Lamayuru alt 11,300 ft, RH, C,E, S,T,F, G,W) Sharpu and ibex are found on this march

*Lamayuru to Nurla*, about 18 miles The road continues down the ravine Streams are crossed several times and finally path opens into the Indus valley near Hangru, mile 7, (alt 9,500 ft) Cross the Indus bridge, mile 9 Pedestrians take up a short cut from mile  $6\frac{1}{4}$  to mile 9. Pass Khalatse (Khalasi), a large village, mile 10; (alt 9700 ft, RH, C,E, P O, T,O, S,T,W, F' G<sup>+</sup>) There is an old castle, Bragnag, built by king Naglug in 1150 A D. on a cliff near the village

Khalatse to Nurla is 8 miles. The road is rough but level Apricots and mulberries are found in the surrounding villages by the middle of July Nurla is a village, (alt 9,900 ft, RH, C,E, S,T,F, G,W).

From Khalatse, there is shorter journey to Nimu as follows Khalatse to Tismisgam is 10 miles The path goes along the Indus for a few miles, then ascends and crosses a plain Further, descend the valley to Tismisgam Tismisgam to Tamtse *via* Hemis Shukpa is 7 miles The path is up and down the ravines and plateau Tamtse to Nimu *via* Bazgu is 10 miles At Bazgu the main road is joined. See below.

*Nurla to Saspul*, 14 miles. The country is barren Saspul is a village with abundant cultivation

and a granary. Two miles across the bridge is Alchi Monastery where one can see traces of Kashmir workmanship. There is a cave monastery of Nyiziapug in ruinous state (Saspul alt 10,200 ft; RH C, E, S, T, F, G, W)

*Saspul to Nimu*, 11 miles. Leave the river, cross a plateau (11,000 ft), and descend to Bazgu, a beautiful village with ruins on the cliffs, mile 8. There is a monastery, a garden and castle. The latter was besieged by Mongols in the reign of Gyalpo Delegs (1640-1680 A D). One can camp in the garden. Further, the road is sandy and stony. Nimu is a group of villages, (alt 10,250 ft, RH, C, E, S, T, F, G, W).

*Nimu to Leh*, 18 miles. Leave the river and ascend the sandy plateau (11,200 ft). The valley broadens thereafter. Descend gradually to Phayang, mile 10. Here is an old monastery, about 400 years old. Pass Pitok (Spitok), mile 13. Here is a 500 years old monastery, built by Gyalpo Bumde. Thence gradually ascend to Leh (Alt 11,500 ft, RH, C, F, P, O, T, O, Dispy, Fort, bazar, capital of Ladakh, etc)

## THE LADAKH ROUTES

### The Pangkong Lake.

The Pangkong Tso is a salt lake similar to other lakes of Central Asia. Its colour is beautifully charming being exquisite sapphire blue and in golden rays of the sun, its beauty is enhanced and the scene becomes wonderfully excellent. This lake, formerly, possessed a vast area but slow desiccation has much reduced it. Even now, it extends over 90 miles in length and 3 miles in breadth. Hungtington's,

"Pulse of Asia " writes that this lake might be transformed into a salt bed just like others in this region as supply of water is less, surface of water is exposed to evaporation, and thirdly a channel is cut down

### Leh to Pangkong and Shushal

Ponies or yaks should be changed at Mang The ice of the Pangkong lake is passable during winter

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh to Tankse, 12,900 ft See page 165	61	See p 165 Easy going through narrow valley followed by open valley Pass Muglib, m 9
Chakar-Talao (Tsearh-Tso) 13,950 ft F, W, F*, G*	14	Camp by the lake. Ascend 4 miles gradually, then descend $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Pangkong lake Pass Spang mik, m 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ Road sandy
Mang, 13,900 ft E, S, T, F, G, W	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Village Reach Meeruk Tso, m 7 along the lake Leave Pangkong at m 11. Ascend and then descend to Shushal plain.
Shushal, 14,200 ft	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	See page 165

*Remarks.* Chakar Talao is in the north of the Pangkong Lake and Mang is situated on the banks of the lake to west of it

### Leh to Demchok (Tibet).

*Via Tankse, Shushal, Upper Indus.*

This is a main trade route between Leh and Tibet. The route is easier than that of Debring route except the crossing of Chang La, pass, which is easy from July to October All supplies should be brought from Leh

There is another route to Demchok *via* Hanle and Photi La, see Leh to Hanle under 'Rupshu' These routes continue over Kailas Range to Rudok

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh 11,500 ft see page 156		5 miles over sandy path, then easy march up Indus valley Pass Tikse monastery, m 12
Ranbirpur, 11 000 ft h, f, f, G, W, C, 1	14	Village 9 miles easy going in Indus valley. Then up Chimre valley
Chimre, 11,890 ft W, S, T F, G, W, C, 1	13	Village Easy going to Sakti, m 5 Further steep ascent and fair road
Zingral, 15,780 ft 1 W*	10	Ascent to Chang La, 18,000 ft m 5 Then descend Road bad
Tsultak, 15 950 ft 1, C, G, W 1*	9	Lake in Kailas Range. Descend to Durgu, m 8½ Ford river Easy going.
Tanl se, 12 900 ft 2 1, G, W, C F, h*	15	Village and monastery. Gradual ascending along the Harong Luma banks
Yokma, 14,400 ft F, G, W, 1, milk	15	Chonopa camping ground Gradual ascending
Kungma, 15,400 ft F, G, W, L, milk,	14	Ascend gradually to Kongta La, 17,000 ft then descend
Shushal, 14,200 ft (Yaks) S,T,f,G,W,C, C, RH	15	Village Junction of Gartok and Rudok routes Road fair but gradual ascending through broad valley
Dachaung, E, F, G, W,	15	Ascend gradually to Tsaka La, m 5 Descend to Relmale Gonpa
Thangra, E, F, G, W	20	Ford river Indus Easy going
Gangra le, E, F, G, W,	17	Easy going up Indus valley
Fuk-Che, E, F, G, W,	12	" " " " "
Lagankhel, E, F G, W,	8	" " " " "
Demchok, E, F, G, W,	16	This is Ladakh & Tibet boundary
Total distance	193	

## The Chang Chenmo

It is a valley watered by Chang Chenmo river situated in the south of Lingzi Thang plateau. Tibetan antelopes are found in this region. Its main route is as follows. Leh to Tankse see page 165

Stage	In ter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Tankse to Pamzal, 14,790 ft E	60	See p 168 Track fair up Chang Chenmo valley
Kiam, 17,040 ft E, F, G, W,	12	Hot sulphur springs Road fair up the valley Ford R
Kyrmgo, 17,450 ft E, W, F*, G*,	17	Track up the Chang Chenmo valley
Chang Chenmo Camp E, G*, W*,	16	As above
Lanak La, as above	16	Camp below the pass Ascend to Lanak La, 18,000 ft and descend
Shum, 17,500 ft E, W, F*, G*,	20	Track by barren plains
Tomar, 17,070 ft E, F*, G*, W (Snow)	12	Track as above
Kamure 17,000 ft E, F*, G*, W, (Lake)	17	(Changthang). Camp on Sumjilung plains

*Remarks.* In the above route, it is suggested to enquire at Phobrang about the location of *Changpa* camps. Beyond Kiam, the river remains frozen or easily fordable. At Kyrmgo, a route bifurcates to Nischu over Lumkang pass.

Also see the route to Lingzithang as below, page 167.

## The Great Plains.

The Great Plains of the Depsang, Kuen Lun and Lingzithang lying in the north of Panglung in Ladakh are wide salt plains of lacustrine origin.

situated between 17,300 ft and 16,000 ft. above the sea-level. The plains are surrounded by mountains which are the eastern continuation of the Karakoram Range, 21,000 ft. Their peaks rise to 25,000 ft. and on further west to 26,000 ft. on Mustagh and one is Mt Godwin Austin or Chogori, 28,200 ft

Captain Bower and Dr Thorold crossed the lofty plains in 1891 and found much game there and met nomad Tibetans. They were forcibly turned to the north while going towards Lhasa. In 1895 Mr. Fletcher and others took the same route from Yarkand side with no success. Dr Sven Hedin explored this tract in 1907 as far as Trans Himalayas. Knowledge of the sources of the Satlaj, Indus and Brahmaputra are due to his efforts. Across the plains there are several tracks for Yarkand used by caravans in summer. For the route see below

### **Leh to Lingzithang and thence to Kashgar.**

The route described here is easier than those by the Shyok or Saser La and has got plenty of games in the way but its disadvantages as a trade route are being lengthy, less comfortable, country wild and path liable to be forgotten. But across the plains and beyond Shahidulla, the route is satisfactory. The *Champa* method of using sheep as transport in this route is preferably better for sportsmen

Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh to Tankse, p 165	61	See p 165 Track fair Pass Muglib, m 9, Chakar Talao, m 14 (p 164) and Lukung, m 21 Village Ascend gradually
Phobrang, 14,500 ft E,F,G,W,S,T	25	
Chagra, 15,090 ft E,W,F*,G	8	Changpa camp (sometimes), Ascend gradually to Mar simik pass, 18 400 ft, m 9 Descend to Rimdivalley
Rimdi, 16,900 ft E,W,F*,G*	17	Changpa camp (occasional) Track very stony
Pamzal, 14,790 ft E,F G,W	10	Camp in Chang Chenmo valley near river Road up and down but satisfactory
Gogra, 15,570 ft	13	E,F,G,W Rd up and down
Kota jilga, 16,730 ft E,F,G,W	8	Road firstly gradual and then steep ascending
Panglung, 17,250 ft E,F,G,W	8	Ascend gradually to Chang- lung pass, 18,910 ft, walk on tableland Road bad
Samzungling, 17,310ft E,W,G*	15	Ascend gradually to table- land Track satisfactory across west-end of Lingzi- thang plains
Dehra Compaz, 17,890 ft E,W*	19	Cross Dehra Pass, m 1½ Descend through stony track to Karakash valley
Shinglung, 17,030 ft (Donglung), E,F,W	18	Track bad, difficult for pack transport
Kizil-jilga 16,360ft E,W from down stream	14½	Track bad down the Kara- kash river-bed
Chung -tash 15,740 ft E,W	23½	Leave Karakash river Track bad Cross streams
Shor-jilga, 15,900 ft E,W	14	Ascend gradually Karatagh pass, 17,800 ft Descend steeply to plain
Karatagh, 16,890 ft E,F,W	9	Lake Track fairly level Pass Tamba
Malik Sai, 15,200 ft (Aktagh) E F,W	20	Camp at junction of stream Road fair at foot of Aktagh hill
Chibra, 16,400 ft E,W,F*,G*.	10	Track up stream Pass Sugetdawan 17,618 ft Then descend
Suget Karaul, 12,300ft S,T,F,G,W E O, Fort	21	Summer residence of a Chinese official Road fair down Karakash river

Stage	Inter miles.	Nature of journey to next stage
Shahidulla, 11,900 ft L F G, W, S*, T*, old fort	8	Kirghiz Camps Road fair down Karakash R Ford Toghra-Su m 11
Kilian Kurghan, 11 450 ft E, F, G, W	18	Track down Karakash R Then up Tugur manlik su Road fair
Bostan E W, F* G*	6	Road fair up Tugur Manlik Su Road fair
Karachaglan F, W	14	Ascend Kilian dawan pass 17,910 ft and descend Both way steep
Chush-Kum, 11,620 ft E, W G*	16	Track fair down Kilian River Cross several times
Lamlung Mazar 9,440 E, W, G*	12	Track fair down Kilian River
Akshor 8 250 ft F, F, G, W	12	Track fair down Kilian R
Kilianbazar, 7,000 ft F, W, S, T F, G	24	Village Road through Cultivation and sandy soil
Bash—Langar F, G W	14	Village Road through Cultivation and gravel
Oi-toghrak, 5,760 ft E, G, W	10	Village Road as above
Bora, 5,340 ft E, G, W Oasis	12	Journey across Tiznaf valley Pass Becharikoasis, m 14
Karghalik 4,430 ft S, T, F, G, W, E, O	22	Town Residence of Amban Road good through Cultivated Country
Posgam, 4 200 ft S, T, E, F, G W	22	Village Residence of Amban Country as above
Yarkand, 4,430 ft S, T, F, G, E, W, C, P, O	18	Large town and centre of trade Residence of Amban Country as above.
Kok-rabat, 4,380 ft E, F, G, W, S*, T*	25	Village Track through desert, Oases frequent
Kizilbazar 4,410 ft. E, S, T G, W, F*	27	Village Track as above
Yangi-hissar 4,250 ft E F S T, G, W Fort	30	Town Frequent Cultivation in sandy tract
Yapchan, 4,400 ft E F, G, W, S*, T*	26	Village Country as above
Kashgar, 4 380 ft E, F, S, T, W, G, C P, O	24	Capital of Chinese Turkestan, centre of trade, residence of British Consulate General and <i>Taotai</i>



*Remarks.* From Karghalik to Kashgar, the road is very good and 20 feet wide. On the way, there are stage post at every 5 or 6 miles where travellers can stay.

### Alternative Route.

There is an alternative route between Shahidulla and Karghalik.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Shahidulla to Kilian Kurghan, see above	18	See above Cross Tugur manlik jilga, m 3½ Pass Pelctaghach, m 10
Allnazar Kurghan	16	Road steep and rough
E, F, G, W Tarbogaz, E, ice W,	7	Ascend to Sanju Dawan, 16,650 ft, icefield at the top. Descent steep. Liable to falling rocks and avalanches
Gezge, 10,000 ft E, F, G, W	16	Descend to Sarighyar valley. Ford river several times
Tam-Karaul, 8,750 ft E, F, G, W	12	Hamlet. Road descending. Pass Chochu glen, m 5
Kiwaz, E, F, G, W	16	Hamlet. Descend into the valley. Cross Sarigh-yar
Sanju-bazar, 6,040 ft E, F, S, T, G, W, C	12	Road through gravel desert. Pass Sulaghiz-langar, m 6
Koshtagh, E, F, G, W, S, C	25	Village. Ford. Killan River
Oitoghrak	20	See page 169
Bora	12	See page „
Karghalik	22	See page „

## Leh to Depsang Plain, Yarkand & Kashgar Via Karakoram Pass.

This is a summer trade route *via* Khardung, Saser and Karakoram passes. The former two passes are comparatively troublesome. A lengthy route was made to avoid Saser pass but the old one was re established by the Nubra valley people. Between Panamik and Tut-Yailak, a new road has been made *via* Un dung.

Arrangement for transport should be made at Leh or Yarkand. Baggage ponies should be hired. The Khardung pass remains open from mid June to November. Ponies cross it unladen. Yaks are better for transport and can cross it earlier than June but avalanches may be dangerous on the north. The Saser pass remains open from July to 15th November. It is recommended to make always early start and stop during bad weather. The Karakoram pass is open throughout the year. The Depsang plains remain snow covered till 15th June and are liable to bog ponies.

Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh, 11,500 ft See page 156	10	Road rough and ascending.
Leh Polu, 15,252 D, & W, F*		Pass Ganles, mile 5 Ascend to Khardung Pass, 17,600 ft, Descend about 1,200 ft over snow field
Khardung, 13,350 ft E, F, O, S*, T, W, G	15	Pass Khardung Polu, 15,300 ft, mile 9 Village. Descend through ravine to mile 7 and in Shyok valley. troublesome in

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Khálsar (Kharchar) 10,600 ft I, I, S T, G, W	12	Village Cross Shyok river mile 3 Pass Thirit, mile 6½ Road rough from Nubra-Shyok confluence to Liakzun, mile 11 Cross Sumur Lungpa
Tegur, 10,250 ft F I S, I G, W	15	Village on Nubra R Pass hamlets Road fair
Panamik, 10,600 ft F F, C, S, T, G W	16	Village, Granary Cross Thulanbuti-chu, mile 8 Ascend 2 000ft & descend
Umlung, 12,250 ft I W, (F, G) *	12	Cross Thulanbuti Chu m 2 Leave here left bank road
Tut-yáilak (Pang- dangsa) 14,150 ft F F, G W,	11	Camp opposite moraine of Mamostang (Murgistan) Glacier to west Road rough Pass Skyangpo chu, 15,070 ft, and Sartang Ascend saddle glacier on watershed between Shyok and Nubra Valleys Cross Saser Pass 17,480 ft mile 11
Saser Brangsa 15,200 L, F, G W	16	Ruined hut on Shyok R Cross Shyok valley early Ascend over plateau to Chong-tash lake, mile 8 Desend to Murgo
Murgo (Chalan Chumik) 14,600 ft, E F, W G *	12	Camp at Murgo-Shyok Con- fluence Road rough ascending
Kizil langar, 10,400 ft, E, W	24	Up the stream, as end to 17,780 ft Cross Depsang plains, m 6 Ford Chip Chap R, mile 13 Pass Daulat begoldi, mile 15 Then ascend
Karakoram Polu 16,900 ft, E W Stone Shelter	17	Road rough through stony valley Ascend Kara- koram pass, 18,300 ft
Balti Brangsa, 17,000 ft E, W, G *	22	Road gradual descending and easy
Baksam bulak 16,700 ft as above	10	Continue descending down stream across plateau
Malik Sai (Aktagh) 15,450 ft E, W, F* G*. To Yarkand and Kashgar	20	Road fair and gradual ascending east of Aktagh hill

*Remarks* Supplies should be carried from Panamik till Turkistan is reached At 10th mile from Murgo, halt can be made as fuel beyond this is not available till Chibre is reached There is a track down the Karakoram pass which joins the route, given below

### Leh to Yarkand and Kashgar Via Digar La, Karakoram, Yangi-Dawan.

This route is practically a winter one and is passable for coolies The Digar La does not block the traffic much in winter and remains open longer than the Khardung and Chang La passes

From west of Yangi-dawan, there are two routes which lead over the Keun Lun Range These bifurcate after leaving the Yarkand river at Chirag-saldi and Bazar-dara and cross Chirag-saldi and Takht Kuram passes respectively

Stage,	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh, 11,500 ft. See p 156		Road rough to north-east of Leh
Digar Polu, D, W	13	Huts Ascend Digar La, 17,000 ft and descend over snow Track boggy
Digar, 13,000 ft E G W	14	Village Track down Lung-tung Lumba
Agham 10,500 ft. E F G W S T	8	Village Track fair through Sagar valley.
Pakra, 11,000 ft E F G T	12	Track as above
Chim-Chak, 11,500 ft as above	10	Track as above.
Shyok 12,140 ft. C, E, F, G, T, S,	8	Village. Cross river bed where sandy. Route over river bed. Pass Tanokha
Chang-Jangal 12,500 ft E F G W,	12	Leave Chang Chemoo Pass Route over

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Dang-yailak, 12,230 ft. E,F,W	18	Route as above Pass Katlang Chenmo
Yargulak, 12,950 ft E,F,G,W	20	Route as above Pass Shivo- lung, mile 8
Kataklik, 13,900 ft E,W,G, F,*	18	Route as above Pass several snouts of glaciers from Nubra
Sultan Chuskam, 14,200 ft E,F,*G,W	15	Route as above Pass Saser Brangsa, mile 10
Kumdun, 15,000 ft as above	18	Route as above
Gapshan (Yapchan) as above	9	Route as above Join summer route at Daulat-beg-oldi, m 15
Karakoram Polu	18	See page 172
Balti Brangsa	20	" "
Baksam bulak 16,700 ft E W,G*	10	Travel down stream across plateau
Malik Sai (Aktágh) 15,200 ft, E,F,G W	23	Path down stream Ford it
Khufelang Aghzi 14,400 ft, E,F,G,W	15	Camp at Yarkand R con- fluence Ascend and des- cend to river
Igar saldi, 14,000 ft as above	20	Path down Yarkand R A route leads to Shahidullah.
Kirghiz-jangal, 13,900 ft, E F,G W	20	Path fair down the river
Kulan oldi, 12,100 ft E,F,G,W	15	Ascend Tokonak ravine and Yandi-Dawan, 15 800 ft m 10
Tora, oghill, 12,000 ft as above	18	Descend Path fair down stream
Kizil, ungur 9,300 ft E,F,G,W, S*, T*	20	Village Path rough down stream
Ishak-art-aghzi, 8,350 ft, E,F,G,W	20	Path as above Cross Ak- korum dawan, 10750 ft Descend
Ak masjid, 8,400 ft E F,G,W,S*,T*.	15	Village, Path down grassy valley Pass Pussa, m 12
Kokyar 6,440 ft. E F,G,W,S,T,C,	17	Town Path sandy and undulating
Beshterek, 5,890 ft E,F,G,W,S*	24	Hamlets Path better
Karghalik	20	See 169
Yarkand	40	" "
Kashghar	132	" "

*Remarks.* From Kataklik, a track leads to Murgo passing over Depsang plains to Chip-Chap R (P, 172)

## Leh to Skardu.

This route is practically a winter one as the Indus closes it in summer. When other routes *via* Chorbat La and Khardang La become closed in winter, this route comes into vogue. From Urdas, a track across the Indus leads to Kargil *via* Homoting or Hamboting La. See 'Skardu' for other routes.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh to Nurla	43	See page 163
Khalatse (Khalsi) 9,700 ft, E, W, S, T, R H, P O, T O, C, F*, G*	8	Village Leave Srinagar Rd Road stony up Indus Water scarce Cross Dumkhar Chu and spur
Skirbuehan	16	Village Cross Br and Broglon Track rough
E W, I*, G*		
Nabi Brangsa (Lower Hanu), E I, G, W	14	Hamlet Route bifurcates to Chorbat La Track rough Pass Kanutse and Phindur
Dah, E, F, W, G*, S, T	13	Village Cross Dah ravine Track difficult Cross Baroro and Indus rope Br
Urdas, E, F, W	9	Hamlet Track unfit for ponies Pass Grugurdo
Marol, E, W, F*	19	Hamlet at Shingo-Shigar confluence Pass Hamiz- gund and Papaldo
Kharmang, 8,340 ft, E, F, G, W, S, T	20	Village Cross rope Br Indus very rapid here
Tolti	12	See 'Skardu'
Parkutta 7,870 ft	18	" "
Gol	14	" "
Skardu 7,770 ft	21	" "

## The Nubra Valley

This valley is about 3 miles wide lying amidst snow capped mountains. This valley is a good playground for hunting ibex and goral. The Saser range has 3 peaks between 24,000 and 25,000 ft.

The mountains are steep The highest peak can be attempted by ascending from Gut yailak ( Pangdongtsn ) on the main route to Yarkand ( page 172 )

### **Nubra Routes.**

Leh to Nubra, see page 172

Also there is a long route *via* Digar La as follows —

*Leh to Camp*, 11 miles Pass Sahu, mile 4 Further the path is steady but easy ascending Camp near dak hut (Altitude 15,000 ft fuel available in late summer)

*Camp to Digar*, 25 miles Ascend 2,000 ft to Digar La There is snow on both sides of it Descend to Digar village (alt 13,500 ft)

*Digar to Khalsar*, 25 miles Descend to Shyok Join the Khardong route, page 172

There is a still longer route Leh to Khalsar *via* Khardung and to Margistan Glacier, pages 171 and 172

From Nubra to Khapallu, see Khapallu to Leh

### **The Gonpa Monastery.**

Pilgrims visit the monastery every third year. The route for this goes up the Panamik stage (page 172) Panamik to Kimi is 15 miles A bridge is crossed at mile 5 and Kuvet and Arano are passed Kimi to Gonpa is 8 miles and the villages of Nyungsted and Zangsar are passed and snow torrents are forded and thus Gonpa is reached.

Beyond Gonpa, the country is uninhabited and the route up the valley is practicable either in the early part or late in the year While returning from Gonpa, Kuvet is only one march

## Gonpa To Khapallu

Return Kuvet from Gonpa as above and march to Charsa, 13 miles wherein road is fair Charsa to Mondari is 18 miles Path is down the 'valley upto Shyok, mile 6 Further road is tiresome and rough At Mondari, join the route, 'Khapallu to Leh'

## § The Shyok Valley.

Shyok is a village in the Shyok valley and can be reached by the route, 'Leh to Tsultak', page 165 Further, Tsultak to Shyok is 19 miles At Durgu, mile 8½, a route bifurcates down the Durgu Lungpa Shyok is a stage, (alt 12,140 ft, c, e, f, g, w, s) There are other routes from Leh to Shyok, page 171 and *via* Digar La, page 173

## THE RUPSHU.

The country south east of Ladakh is Rupshu, and also called, "knot of mountains" This is the highest inhabited part in the world The population is a nomad race living between 13,500 ft and 16,500 ft above the sea-level They raise crops upto 15,000 ft The shepherds keep sheep and move from place to place. There are several salt lakes, the well-known being of Tsokar

There are routes from Spiti and Lahaul (Kailung) across the lofty valley to Leh The chief passes are Baralacha (16,200 ft), Pharang (18,300 ft) in the south and Taglang (17,500 ft) in the north Rupshu is a junction of the routes from Kulu to Leh and Tibet

## Kailung (Lahaul) to Leh.

The route is open from June to October Yaks are the best transport for the through journey For



all kinds of arrangements, the aid of the Assistant Commissioner should be taken Kailung is a town, tehsil and has an observatory, telegraph and post office, a dispensary and a Moravian Mission The Wazir resides there in summer The route, described here, is a part of the through route from Simla to Leh wherein Kailung may be reached from Simla *via* Chamba or Kulu See Simla to Leh (Route Tables at the end)

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kailung, 10,100 ft S T, F, G, W, RH, E, O PO, TO, Dispy Jispa, 10,500 ft RH, E, F, S, T, G, W	13½	Road zigzag and ascends up the western side of the Bhaga valley Road fair Pass Keda Tokpo Br and Kulang (S,T,G,W,E,F*,) m 10 Pass Darcha (E,S T,F,G W C )
Patseo, 12,464 ft E, RH, S, T, F, G, W	10½	A Market for Kulu Tibetan and Lahaul traders Road up Bhaga valley
Zing-zingbar, 14 000 ft C, E, W, F*, G*	6½	Reach Surajdul lake, m 4 Ascend Baralacha La, 16,200 ft m 6 Descend to Yuman Tso
Kinlung (Kanun) 15,120 ft E, O, W, F*, G*	12	Road easy Descend through open Yunan valley
Sarchu (Lingti) 18,950 ft E, G, W, F	11	Track down Tsarap valley
Rachog-ba, 18,400 ft E, W, F*, G*	10	Track through Tsarap valley Pass Glan, m 2
Sumdo, 15,520 ft E, W	9	Ascend Lacha lung La, 16,600 ft m 4 Further descend
Pang, 15 200 ft E, W	16	Cross another pass, 16,630 ft Descend Walk over More Plain
Rogchin, (Rukchin) 15,300 ft E,W,F*,G*	19	Sometimes <i>Changpa</i> camp Path up Debring valley
Debring, 15,780 ft E, G, W, S*, T*, F*	14	Changpa Camp Yaks from here for further journey Ascend up Debring ravine to Tagalang La, 17 500 ft, m 4, Descend to Gya

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Gya, 13,500 ft M, E, C, T, F, W	15	Village S (granary) Track through Gya ravine Pass Latho, m 4, and Miru, m 10
Upshi, 11,900 ft E, C, W, S*, T*, F*, G*	16	Village Pass Ugu, m 5 Cross Shang Br
Marsalang, 11,500 ft E, C, W, F*, G* T*	10	Village and Hemis Monastery 2 miles further inside ravine Road through sandy plain
Shushot, 10,750 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, C.	13	Village Sometimes journey tiring, cross Indus at Chaglamsir, m 8
Leh	12	See page 163

### Alternative routes.

There are alternative routes from Sarchu (Lingti) to Debring and Debring to Leh as follows

#### (a) Sarchu to Debring.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Sarchu (Lingti), see above		Leave above route at Gian
Luntunnu E, F, G, W	16	Continue down Tsarap valley Pass hot spring, m 3
Takh, E, W, F* G*	9	Hamlet Ascend and cross Marang La, m 4 Descend
Lun, E, G, W, S*, T*, F*	18	Changpa camp Cross several streams up Zara valley
Sangtha, as above	9	Track tiresome through sandy valley
Debring, 15,780 ft	21	See above

*Remarks* From Sangtha, a track leads to Markhar, distance, 52 miles The track is rough and Yaks should be engaged The stages are Dut, Yark and Yagrupal, where E, W, G, F, are present

## (b) Debring to Leh.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Debring, 15,780 ft F, G, W, S*, T*, F*	15	<i>Chanqpa camp</i> Ascend Tagalung La, 17,500 ft and descend Pass Tiarnak
Gya, 13,600 ft C, F, F, W, S, T, G*		Village and Monastery G (granary) Descend by Gya ravine Pass Upshi Cross Indus Br
Ugu, E, F, G W S, T	21	Village Track fair along Indus
Tikse, 11,000 ft E, F, G W S, T	15	Village and Monastery Road as above A little ascent near Leh
Leh, 11,500 ft	12	See page 163

### Kailung to Leh *via* Zaskar and Shapodak La

This route is not a popular one but sportsmen will find it useful

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kailung, 10,100 ft Kulang, E, G, W, S, T, F*	10	See p, 178 Village Road up Bhaga valley
Darcha (Sumdo), 10,840 ft E C, F, G, W, S, T	8	Last village in Lahaul Track ascends up Kada Tokpa nala
Dakbajan, E, F, G, W	10	Track with ups and downs
Ramjak, E, W, F*, G*	10	Track very rough for ponies
Lakong E, W, G*	10	Cross Shingkun La, 16,722 ft
Kurgiah, E, W, S*, T*, F*, G*	18	Zaskar village Road better
Tetha (Thesur), E, W, F*, G*,	10	Village Road better. Cross rope Br

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Char, 12,800 ft L, F, G, W, S, T	8	Village Road rough up the Niri Chu
Phuktal Gonpa, E, F, G, W	6	Monastery Track fair
Ya-tah, E F G, W	8	Hamlet Pass Tantak
Shadi, I F G W	11	Gonpa Village Track up the spur and down Niri Chu.
Niri, E W, F*, G*	10	Track rough
Niri Sumdo, F, W, F*, G*	12	Cross steep Shapodak La 18,530 ft
Lapurba, E, W, F* G*	16	Track rough down Khurna Chu
Kurna Sumdo, E, W, F*, G*	8	Cross steep Ruberung La and descend
Camp, E W, I*, G*,	15	Track rough
Markar, 12,510 ft E F, G, W	13	Village Track down the valley,
Skio (Skin), 11,120 ft E, I, G W	18	Hamlet Cross Kunda La 16,211 ft and descend
Rumbak, E, F, G, W	14	Hamlet Track fair along Indus
Pitok (Spitok) E, F, G, W, S, T, RH	15	Village, See p 163.
Leh	5	See p 163,

*Remarks* There is a sportsmen's route from Markar to Rumbak, distance 17 miles This should be attempted from 15th July to 15th September Sportsmen take up this route in search of Burhel heads

### **Dankhar (Spiti) to Leh *via* Rupshu (Tso Moriri) and Debring.**

This route remains open from 15th June to October At Spiti, there is a route to Tibet but closed for Europeans. Spiti ponies are recommended for this route Dankhar is a large village with fort, monastery and head quarters of Nono of

This route, described below, is a part of the through route from Simla to Leh

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Dankhar, 12,774 ft S, T, F, F, G, W		Village etc Path is up Spiti valley Cross Lingti Br & several torrents Pass Lithang, m 8 & Lara m 9
Kaja (Kaze) E, S, T, F, G, W.	16	Village Road up Spiti valley Pass monastery, m 6 Leave valley Ascend steeply
Kibar, 13,400 ft E, F S, T G W	12	Kibar (Khyipar), a large village Track is difficult
Jughtha (Jelgthag) 16,000 ft E, F, G, W	11	Track steep Cross glacier and Parang La, 18,300 ft
Dutung, 16,000 ft F, F, G, W	10	Travel along Parechin or Parang Cross several spurs and ravines
Umdung E, G, W, F.	17	Cross several spurs and ravines
Narbu Sumdo, 15,300 ft E, G* W*	20	Cross Phirse Fu Pass Chumik, Road fair
Kiangdom, 14,600 ft, E, (G, W)*	11	It is south end of Tso Moriri Water from the lake Travel Northward along western end of the lake
Karzok (Khorzang) 14,900 ft, E, W, G, F, (S T)*	14	Village & monastery Continue march northward Pass Peldo, m 5
Shaksang E, F, G, W	11	Leave Tso Kiagr (lake), a mile to east Cross Nanak La Then cross Pola Konka La
Polakonka La, 16,600 ft E, F, W, G,*	17	Camp on Pass Descend gradually by Polakonka Fu No water on this march
Thugje E, W, F, G	14	Road fair across Tsokar Chomo Maldan. W only at m 4
Debring	17	See page 178 for Leh

*Remarks* From Kiangdom, a track leads up Phirse-fu, practicable in autumn, to Pang (p 178)

### Route via Thasang La.

There is an alternative route between Thugje and Gya via Thasang La, distance 38 miles This is a sportsmen's route and remains open from 15th June to October The Ammons are found here Thugje to Thasang is 11 miles Track is easy across Tsokar Chomo Maidan Camp at foot of the pass, Thasang, (alt 16,000, E,F,G,W) Thasang to Mandal Chang is 7 miles Cross Thasang La, 17,500 ft and descend to Mandal Chang, (alt 16,000 ft E,F,G,W, changpa camps) Mandal Chang to Gya is 20 miles Cross Kaimeri La, 16,800 ft and descend to Gya

### Leh to Hanle, Photi La and thence to Demchok.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh to Debring, Pongo Nagu E, W, F, G	12	See p 178 Track fair down the valley Track fair across Tsokar Chomo Maidan Pass Thugje Gradually ascend to Pass
Polakonka La, 16,600ft E, W, F, G*	17	Track down Puga valley
Puga E, Sulphurous W, F*, G*	11	Track down Puga R to Indus opposite Mahiya, m 8 Road fair
Nima Rap E, F, G, W, T, O	20	Village Track through sand up Sangpoche La Descend to Hanle R
Mankhang E, F, G, W	23	Track fair over grassy slopes

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Hanle, 14,280 ft E, F, G, W, T, S*	18	Village and monastery Camp below village Cross Photi La, m 8
Photi La E, F, G W	11	Camp at foot of pass Track down Koyul Lungpo
Koyul, E, F, G, W, S, T	10	Village Track up Indus valley Join route p 165
Laga' khel	10	Join route p 165
Demchok	16	" " "

*Remarks* There are also other routes for Hanle, (a) *Shushal to Camp* by lake is 14 miles, path is up by North west of Tsaka La Water and fuel are present *Camp to Dungti* is 16 miles, path is rough and Indus is fordable when low Dung fuel and water are present *Dungti to Nimu mud* is 20 miles Camp by ferry, water from Indus and fuel from villages *Nimu-mud to Camp* on Hanle river is 14 miles Mosquitoes are troublesome Water and fuel are present *Camp to Hanle* is 21 miles

(b) From Nurbo Sumdo (page 182), Hanle can be reached *via* Dangan and Lanak La in 3 marches, distance 55 miles (c) There is also a track from the northern end of Tso Moriri to Hanle, a journey of 3 marches, (p 182 and 183)

### Hanle to Kailung.

Reach Nurbo Sumdo as above and join the route as on page 182 and leave it at Kibar where join the route as below

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kibar, 13,400 ft E, F, G, W, S, T		Village Cross Parilungti and spur Ascend Spiti valley
Losar, 1,395, ft as above	18	Track up Lichu nala Cross river, m 7
Lichu, E, F, G, W	9	Cross Kunzam Pass, 14,930 ft Pass Sumchikma lake
Chandar-dul 14,500 ft as above	10	Lake Track rough up Chandra R
Topo Koma, 15,000 ft as above	14	Track as above
Topo, E, F, G, W	9	Ascend Baralacha La Descend to Yuman Tso
Kinlung 14,120 ft	11	See page 178
Kailung 10,100 ft	42	" " "

*Remarks* There are no supplies available in this route except sheep sometimes

### ZASKAR.

It is a glacial region to the south west of Ladakh. The population is small, almost confined to the banks of the Zaskar river. Vegetation is scanty. Snowfall is greater than in Central Ladakh and climate is rigorous. Due to physical aspects of the tract, routes are few and even the route to Leh is circuitous and lengthy. Most of the passes on the routes to Lahaul, Suru or Padar are troublesome. The Shingkun Pass to Lahaul is passable by laden ponies from July to October, while the Pense Pass to Suru is easy.

### Kishtwar to Zaskar *v/s* Umasi La and thence to Leh

The Umasi La is the easiest pass between Zaskar and Padar and remains open from 15th June



to 15th September Native travellers are searched before and after passing the Suchcham sapphire mines Coolies usually carry half load over the pass For Kashmir to Kishtwar, see page 131

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kishtwar, 5,360 ft C, E, F, G, S T, W, etc		Road fair Travel northwards to Dal Dhar ridge Pass Dal, m 8 Flies troublesome
Bagine, 6,500 ft E, F, G, W, S*, T*,	16	Hamlet Ascend up the Chandra Bhaga R, descend at m 4 Again ascend Fine waterfall here
Plas, 6,700 ft as above,	10	Hamlet. Cross several ascents and descents
Shirir, 6,700 ft E, F, G, W	12	Hamlet Road through woods and open valley Scenery fine Pass Zar, m 7½ and Aphen, m 8½
Arthal (Atholi) 6,360 ft F G, W, S T, P O Dispy, E (Camp near Tehsil)	12	Village, Gulabgarh Fort on right bank Scenery fine Cross Chandra Bhaga R & Bhut Nala Br Pass Chashoti
Kunhel (Mau), 7,600 ft E, F, G, W, S*, T*	12	Village Rideable path through wooded valley
Matsel 9,700 ft. E F, G, W, S, T	10	Village (Machail) Path fairy upto Suchcham mines above which are Dangel, Lusni etc Buddhist villages Path rough henceforth
Bhuzas (Bujwas) 11,570 ft, E, F, G, W	8	Path rough and ascending Ford Kaosh Nala
Bugjan Hiwan, 15,500 ft E, G, W	7	Camp near glacier Ascend over glacier to Umasi La, 17,370 ft Descend to Huttra
Gaura, 13,540 ft. E, F, G, W	13	Camp at 13,500 ft Path rough down Bardur valley

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Atung, 12,020 ft I, F, G, W, S*, T*	10	Village Rock pigeons plentiful Eggs unobtainable Junction of Zaskar Suru route via Pensi La Cross Doda R by rope Br at Tung-ring, m 6
Kursha, E, F, G, W, S, T	16	Village and Monastery Padam, old Capital of Zaskar in ruins is closeby Road fair down Zaskar R
Zozar, 11,580 ft I, F, G, W, S	12	Zozar (Zuzzar) Road fair along Zaskar R
Zangla, 11,050 ft E, I, G, W, S, T	6	Village Path rough Cross Namtsay La (Chelong Labho), 14,530 ft No snow Burhel plenty Descend Khurmafuf valley
Ahurmafuf 13,050 ft, E, F, G, W	13	Path fair Ascend Pangot valley
Pangot, 15,000 as above	10	Camp at the foot of Nera La Track rough Cross Nera La, 15,966 ft & descend
Naerung, 11,000 ft as above	10	Village Cross Chochu Bori La, m 4 & several spurs
Yelchang, 12,730 ft as above	7	Village Cross Singi La, 16,600 ft Snow in north side only Pass Maleng m 8
Photaksar, 13,900 ft E, F, G, W, S, T*	16	Village Road fair Cross stream & ascend Sirsir La, 16,372 ft m 5 No snow
Honupatta, 12,400 ft E, F, G, W, S	15	Village Track down Spangthan valley
Phanjila as above	7	Village. Track very rough Yaks can not go further
Wanlah, 10,900 ft, E, F, G, W, S, T	6	Village Track as above Cross Pirikiti La, 12,500 Descend to Lamayuru
Lamayuru, 11,400 ft	9	See page 162 to continue march to Leh

*Remarks.* There is another route from Phanjila to Leh, distance 62 miles See below A fair road goes to Chamba from Arthal A difficult path goes to Leh from Zozar *via* Charcha La The Ruberang and Kunda passes remain open when rivers are fordable From Aphen, a path leads to Pense Pass and Bangar From Bhuzas, a track *via* Hagshu La, open during July to August, goes to Suru

### Leh to Zaskar

There are two routes, one *via* Choke La described below and the other *via* Prinkiti La which is already described above

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Leh 11 500		See page 163
Nimu, 10,250 ft	18	See page 163
Ezas, E,F,G,W	16	Village Road fair up Zaskar R
Drogulika as above	9	Hamlet Road fair up Sundah-fu
Hinju as above	10	Hamlet Ascend Choke La 13,513 ft and descend
Phanjila See page 187.	9	Hamlet Road fair See page 187

### Kailang (Lahaul) to Kashmir *via* Zaskar, Umba La, Pensi La & Suru

This route is not popular and only used when destination is to Zaskar and from Zaskar to Kashmir Supplies and transport should be arranged at Kailung and Zaskar The Umba La gives some trouble to pack animals in early summer and after snow

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kailung to Char	84	See page 180
Itchor, E, F, G W, S, T	15	Village Cross Br Road liable to avalanches
Reru, as above	7	Village Road better down the Tsarap Lingti Chu
Padam, 11 373 ft as above	15	Old capital of Zaskar Road as above
Phe, 11,500 ft as above	20	Village Road better Route (page 187) is joined at Tungring
Abring, 12,000 ft as above	12	Village Road fair up the Doda valley Pasture present
Trakhar E, F, G, W	20	Track better Pass Hagshu
Ringdom Sankpo E, W	16	Track rough but easy Ascend Pense La, 14,439 ft
Ringdom E, W, F *G, *S, *T *	13	Track easy down Suru R Mosquitoes troublesome
Gulmatungo E, W, F, *G *	17	Road rough Descend and cross Suru Br
Suru, 10,700 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	18	Scattered hamlets, a fort, old RH, Track fair down Suru R
Sankhu, 9,970 ft E, F, G, W, S, T *	15	Hamlet at Nakpo-Suru confluence Track rough up the Nakpo Chu
Umba, 11,300 ft as above	9	Hamlet Ascend Umba La, 14,800 ft and descend
Pranwari, E, F, G, W	9	Gradually ascend Lama- gus La, 14,000 ft and descend to Dras
Dras, 10,144 ft	9	Futher See page 159

### Padam (Zaskar) to Luntunnu (Rupshu)

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Padam to Char, See above	37	See obove
Phutkal Gonpa, E, F, G, W	6	Road rough up the Niri Chu Monastery Track better

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Yaytah, E, F, G, W	8	Hamlet Track bad upto rope Br
Murshoom, E, F, G, W, S T	16	Track over plateau
Sutak, E, W, F*, G*	18	Track better
Lungturma, E, W, F*, G*	11	Track good
Luntunnu, p, 179	11	To Rupshu, see p 179 & 178

### SURU VALLEY.

This valley is small and picturesque but barren from Kargil to Sankhu. The rainfall is great and hills are clothed with vegetation. Wild roses and other flowers are also met with. Suru is a collection of several hamlets scattered over a wide range and is the main place with a fort in the valley.

#### Suru Routes.

For the direct route from Kashmir, see Srinagar to Dras (p 158) and Dras to Suru (p 189). This route further continues to Kailung. From Leh to Suru is as below.

*Leh to Shergol* See High Treaty Road, pages 163 to 161 and beyond Shergol as below.

*Shergol to Sapi, 12 miles* Ascend gradually for 10 miles and pass 14,500 ft. Descend gradually to the hut.

*Sapi to Camp* (Kurtse valley) Cross streams. Ascend gradually and cross Rusi La, 16,000 ft. From the top of the pass, a view of the Nun Kun is very fine. Descend a long march either to Barto by the left side track, 14 miles from Sapi or to Barso by the right side track, 20 miles from Sapi.

**Barso to Suru, 17½ miles** Descend to Kartse Ascend about 2,000 ft and again descend to Suru valley

**Barto to Suru** In case you have taken up the route *via* Barto, the marches will be Barto to Sankhu, 14 miles and Sankhu to Suru, 10 miles

**Remarks.** Whenever bridges at Kargil are washed away, the route has been diverted 14 miles up the Suru river to a bridge at Kinor Tikse, Sartse and Zakartang are passed in the way, spurs ascended and plateau between Kargil and Pashkyum crossed Camp at Pashkyum The distance from Kinor is 17 miles Here the route, Srinagar to Leh is joined, see page 160

### **The Nun Kun Mt.**

The highest peaks of the Nun Kun mountains are Kun Peak, over 23,000 ft and Nun Peak (Dome Peak), 23,410 ft Dr A Neve climbed up to 18,000 ft in 1902 followed by Mr Sillen who reached up to 21,000 ft Mr Sillen found out the snow plateau lying between the four peaks of the Mountain Afterwards Mrs Workman ascended upto 22,840 ft and named it the 'Pinnacle Peak.' In 1914, Count Calsiati climbed up to the Kun Peak.

For the route to the Nun Kun Mt. you should reach Ringdom or Gulmatongo in the Suru valley (page 189) Ford the Suru River Ascend the Shafat Chu Nullah and climb the peak.

### **Barmal and Bat Kol Glaciers.**

Barmal glacier is another climb from Tong 8 miles south of Suru One Should reach Sertk

16,500 ft either by Tongal nullah or by going a few miles to east Barmal glacier, in fact, is a continuation of the Nun Kun and ends in Bat Kol glacier as discovered by Rev C E Barton and Dr E F Neve

The latter glacier is across the Barmal glacier and the route is either by going down the Bod Zojna nullah or down the Bat Kol nullah Dr A Neve climbed a height of 21,000 ft See below also for the route

### **Kargil to Kashmir via Suru, and Wardwan.**

There are several routes between Kashmir, Suru and Wardwan but the one described below is easier and opens earlier though a bit longer The Bat Kol pass is passable by pack animals in summer In winter, snow avalanches on Wardwan side are dangerous

Sokhniz and Inshun are in the beautiful upper part of the Wardwan Valley Ponies should be taken through upto Suru Supplies should be carried from Suru upto Sokhniz

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kargil, Tsalis Kot E, F, G W S*	15	See page 160 Path rough Path better
Sankhu, 9,970 ft E, F, G, W, S, T*	10	Village opposite Kurtse valley Route for Umba La from here Cross stony spur Path rough View of Nun Kun Mt is fine
Suru, 10,700 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, Fort	15	Hamlet, Road rough through Chilung valley
Donara, (Dunore) 12,400 ft E, W, F, G	10	Cross streams Ascend over ice and rocks Cross summits of Bat Kol Pass 14,370 ft and descend

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Camp (Batkol glacier) F, G, W, E, (Camp at 75°54' × 34')	10	Descend to Bat Kol nullah Road better but slippery Ford river
Wompet E, W, F*	12	A large plateau Camp by birch forest Path rough but scenery fine
Sokhniz, 9,080 ft E, F, G, W	10	Village A path goes to Sona Sar (Lidar) Road fair with ups and down Pass Rekinwas
Basemen, 8450 ft E, F, G, W S*, T*	8	Village Fair road along Wardwan River bank
Inshin, 8,300 ft as above	9	Chief town of Wardwan Ascend and descend
Camp E, G, W, F*	10	Camp at Lutharwan Cross Margan Pass, 11,500 ft and descend
Gauran, 8,050 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	10	Village Road fair Pass Naubug, m 7 Ascend Hockins gali Path undulating onward
Shangas, 5,660 ft as above	15	Village Road fair and level
Islamabad, 5,240 ft	13	Head quarter of a dist (page 87 and 128)

*Remarks* From camp at Lutharwan, it is suggested to cross pass and descend to gujar huts, 8 miles further and march Qasba Naubug 9 miles From Naubug, one can go to Islamabad *via* Kuthair, 23 miles The road is fair and Halan nala, Wor nala, Kachwan gali and Waldraman nala are crossed upto Kuthair Kothair to Islambad *via* Achhabal is 9 miles

A rough path goes from Inshin to Marau, 24 miles Here ibex was found but driven away to higher spots by goatherds From Marau, there is a rough path to Kishtwar, four marches



## CHAPTER XVI

### BALTISTAN.

The country on the north-west of Ladakh extending about 150 miles either side of the Indus is Baltistan. This is a tract of lofty mountains and valleys through which the Indus with its tributaries of the Shigar, Lower Shyok and Dras flows. The habitation is mainly confined on their banks. The chief town is Skardu—rather Capital of Baltistan—after whose name the whole country is often called. Shigar and Khapalu are small places but important as there are forts, bazars and mansions of the local Rajas. Baltistan is almost cut off from all communication with the North due to Karakoram or Mustagh Range, while there are intimate connection with all parts of the country.

The Baltis are almost of Tibetan origin. They differ from Ladakhis being taller due to inter marriage with Dards and their neighbours and also differ in social habits due to the adoption of the faith of Islam, while the upper classes are purely Aryan. Around Dras, the people are Dards also called 'Brokpa' or High-landers belonging to the Shia sect. In Shigar and Khapalu, many people belong to the sect of Nurbaksh. Just like Ladakhis, the Baltis are polygamists, hard and sturdy. They use coat, trousers and boots of

unstained skin They keep their heads shaved except at the side and back and wear caps under which straggling elf-locks fall over the neck The cultivation is limited due to less irrigation means and people go out in search of work

Historically, Skardu has played a great part in the past till it was subdued by the brave Zorawar Singh under Dogra Supremacy (See pages 14 and 156 also) Skardu ruled, at one time, up to Chitral under a Mohemmadon Raja whose title is still present among his descendents. The Rajas of Khapalu, Shigar Skardu, Rondu, Astor, Kharmang, Hunza and Nagar had also been fighting with each until their subjugation partly under Dogra rule and partly under the supremacy of Gilgit Agency These Rajas are said to be the descendents of an early Raja of Hunza whose families inter relate

### Skardu.

Skardu is the chief town—rather capital of Baltistan—situated at 7,500 ft above the sea-level It is the residence of the local Raja. The Wazir i wazarat resides here in winter The climate of Skardu is cold in winter and snowfall is less than that of Kashmir The summers are hot but their nights are cool Melons, grapes, apricots etc are fair The Shigar river meets here with the Indus opposite Skardu and the latter flows foaming through contracted valley There are post and telegraph offices, a dispensary, a bazar with English stores There is a nice polo ground and the Raja's ~~residence~~ is close by

## Kashmir to Skardu

The main route is by the Sind valley and Dras. All arrangements for supplies and transport should be made at Ganderbal and Dras. Srinagar to Dras, see page 158. From Dras, there are two routes, one by the Indus valley and the other by the Deosai plain. The former is better as the road is fair except in some places, ponies can be taken through and coolies are available but track is sometimes liable to landslips. The latter route is rough and is preferably used by pack animals as it saves 29 miles journey. It is fair between 15th July to 15th September.

### (A) Indus Valley Route.

*Dras to Shimsha Kharbu, 20 miles* See page 159

*S Kharbu to Kharal, 12 miles* See page 159. Cross suspension bridge at Kharal where the Suru and Dras rivers meet and the Ladakh route is left. Kharal is a poor stage, (alt 8,500 ft poor RH, poor E, bad W)

*Kharal to Olthingthang, 13 miles* The road is stony upto Gangam, a small village, mile 4. Pass the pretty village of Bielargo on opposite bank, mile 8. Descend to river and ascend over Olthingthang, a hamlet, (C, E, T, F G, bad W, S\*, poor RH)

*Olthingthang to Bagicha, 19 miles* The road is up the Suru river and ascends steeply to corner where it meets with Indus. Then descend steeply to Indus. A new road is taken up for 2 miles. A fine waterfall is passed in the way. Tarkuti is a small village, mile 10. Further ascend and descend. Pass

Skirting, mile 13 Descend to Gidiaksdo, mile 16  
Across the cliffs is Bagicha a hamlet, (E, F, G, W, S, T,  
PO, RH, O)

*Bagicha to Tolti, 16 miles* Pass Bondoko and  
Kharmang, a large village with fort-ruins The  
Raja's house is situated on the right bank, a mile from  
the bridge His territory extends from the Shingo  
river below Dras to Parkutta and up the Indus to  
Urdas A nullah nearby is reserved for his shooting  
whence a path leads to Ganse La The Indus is very  
swift here and makes long bends through rocky  
gorges Tolti is a village with a fort and residence  
of the local Raja (alt 8,450 ft S, T, F, G, W, C, RH,  
PO, F near pologround)

*Tolti to Parkutta, 18 miles.* The road  
gradually ascending passes through open valley with  
cultivation Pass fertile fields of Karmango, mile 1.  
Pass under a great cliff, mile 6 Pass hamlets of  
Ghahori, Shadok, Urdi and Chok, between miles 6  
and 8 Cross a river Pass Mantaka and Rasan  
Cross another cliff Parkutta is a large village,  
alt (7,870 ft S, T, E, F, G, W, RH, C, Fort)

*Parkutta to Gol, 14 miles* Road passes  
through cultivation, and rocky cliffs Pass Sirmik  
village At 10th mile, pass Shyok confluence whence  
a ferry boat leads to Kiris and joins Khapalu road  
Gol is a village, (S, T, E, C, F, G, W, RH, PO)

*Gol to Skardu, 21 miles* The road is fair and  
country is stony and barren Pass Torgam village,  
mile 13 Further on are meadows and fields At <sup>4</sup>  
end of the march, ascend the plateau and  
Skardu tehsil and then finally enter into the to

*Remarks.* From Parkutta, a track ascends Katicho nala, crosses Katicho La, 15,053 ft and across Deosai plain reaches Burzil Chauki

### (B) The Deosai route

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Dras, 10,144 ft see above		See above Cross Spur Meet Chango Chu and Marpo Chu confluence, m 5 Ford 2 occasions
Patchkan Brangsa E, W	10	Cross Marpo La Descend to Gultari Chu and Shingo confluence
Docas, F, F, G, W	13	Down Gultari Chu Cross it Ascend Shingo Valley Cross river Ascend to Sumalo
Tsuntl Tang E, F, G, W, S, T	10	Road fair Cross streams A path to Astor, and Gurais at m 13 Ascend Karapolensa Lungma
Karapolensa, E, F, G, W	16	Cross Karapolensa La, appr 15,000 ft Descend over snow down Verchin to Deosai Ford Arbo Chang Cross Charcha La
Charcha La E, on pass, F, G, in nala	18	Travel 3 miles down the nala and join the route from Gurais
Usar Mar, 13,970 ft E, W, G, (summer)	19	Track rough Cross Burji La 15,800 ft Fine view of Muztagh obtainable
Skardu, 7,700 ft.	18	See page 195

### Gurais to Skardu Via Deosai and Burji La.

This route is practicable by laden animals from 15th July to 15th September Grazing is not good Juniper is the only fuel obtainable at some places

Bitter winds sweep over the plateau. The travellers should make arrangement for supplies and transport at Bandipur. The first five marches are by the Gilgit Road.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Gurals, 7,940 ft		See Srinagar to Gilgit Route
Peshwari, 9 000 ft	14	
Burzil Chauki 11,150ft E, F, W, RH, G (in summer)	11	Track rough Ascend Mir Panzil (Stakpita pass, 13,042 ft) Descend to Chhota Deosai Cross Sarsangi pass, 13,860 ft. and descend
Sikhabach, 13,160 ft E, W, G, (in summer).	15	Fine view obtainable of Nanga Parbat and Karakoram Peaks Leave Jerbarcho lake, m 3 Stone Shelters at Chunda kut, m 6½
Wozul Ab (Lalpani) 12,500 ft. as above	10	Cross streams, plateau & Ali Malik Mar 13,400 ft. View of snow peaks obtainable
Usar Mar, 13,970 ft	12	See page 198
Skardu, 7,700 ft	18	" " "

**Remarks** From near Lalpani, two tracks over Deosai lead to Shigar and Parkutta *via* Bari La and Katocho La respectively Beyond Usar Mar, a track leads to Katzarah (p 200) *via* Dari La

### Godhai to Skardu.

#### *Via* Alampi La.

This route is not suitable for pack animals but this is better than the Deosai route when D snows melt late The first eight marches are Gilgit Road (See Srinagar to Gilgit)

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Godhai, 9,100 ft E, F, G, W, RH, S*, T*		Village Track rough up the Ditchel nala and down the grassy valley and pine forest
Bubind, E, F, G, W	11	Village Cross ravine Keep up side valley Lower path leads to Deosai Track stony and rough
Alampi La, 13,000 ft E, W	10	Camp below the pass amid snow peaks above Track rough and steep Ascend pass 16,500 ft appr When snow present, follow zigzag course with a gli sade
Thlashing Spang, 13,000 ft E, F, W	12	Hamlet Track rough down Shigar valley Cross several streams
Stakchun, E, F, W, G*	11	Huts Track rough Cross several streams A lakelet whence a fine scenery of the country
Katzarah (Katsura) E, G, W, S*, T*, F*	13	Village Descend sandy valley Pass Oasis, Pakora m 6½
Skardu, 7,700 ft	20	See page 195

### Skardu to Astor.

This route is not much in vogue

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu to Thlashing Spang	44	See above Crevasses upto late summer Ascend over ice Cross Banak La, 15,000 ft and descend
Eanak La, E, W	19	Track rough down Purshing nala

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Popul, F, W.	17	Hamlet Pass several hamlets Track fair Cross Astor Br
Astor (Hasora), 7,200ft. E, F, G, W, S, T	10	Residence of local Raja, Fort Bazar, RH, IB, Dispy PO, TO

### Skardu to Rondu

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu, See page 195		Track fair Cross Indus by ferry m 2
Komaru, F, F, G, W, S* T*	12	Hamlet Track through valley good and slopes rough
Tsari, as above	10	Hamlet Path rough
Toongas (Tamas) E, G, W, S*, T* F*	10	Hamlet Path fair Pass Bagicha Ascend and descend
Dasu, E, F, G, W, S*, T*	9	Village Gradually descend to Indus Cross by a rope Br
Mendi (Rondu), as above	10	Residence of local Raja

### Astor to Rondu (Mendi)

There are two routes, one *via* Harpo La, and the other *via* Trongo Pir Both are unfit for pack animals They remain open from about 15th July to 15th October The distances are approximate Also there are two more routes used by sportsmen but often difficult The Harpo La is a da pass where avalanches are frequent (A) —



Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Astor Popul E, W	10	See page 201 Hamlet Track very rough Ascend steep glacier Cross Harpo La, 16,785 ft Descend steep
Harpo La, F, W, G.*	14	Camp below snow line Track as above down Luk Chun valley
Chutabar, F, F, G, W	7	Hamlet Track as above Pass Harpo, m 5 Descend to Indus
Rondu	14	See above

(B) From Popul, a path goes to Deowhey, mile 8, (E, W, G\*) The track ascends and descends Deowhey to Chutabar is 13 miles and the track rough over Trongo Pir Pass, 15,637 ft followed by a descent Further as above

### Sportsmen's Routes

(A) *Astor to Thingeh, 14 miles* Leave bungalow and fort across the ravine Descend to Astor river and ascend Pass several hamlets

*Thingeh to Camp, 9 miles* Leave the nullah at mile 7 and ascend to north Camp at 12,000 ft

*Camp to Camp, 12 miles* Track is rough Ascend to 16,000 ft. and cross glacier Descend over snow Stone shelters are present

*Camp to Mendi, 18 miles* Track is rough Descend steeply to Indus and then to Mendi

(B) The other route is Astor to Thingeh as above Thingeh to Baltal is 8 hours journey, pass a village, descend and cross the pass Baltal to Balamik is 10 hours journey, a village is passed on

the way Balamik to Mendi (Shot) is 12 miles and road is fair.

### SHIGAR.

It is a beautiful place and a group of several scattered villages. It is the residence of the local Raja whose polo ground and mansion are attractive. Also the old mosques and tombs of the Rajas are interesting. The fruits are very good. The climate of Shigar is cooler than that of Skardu. For the routes see below

### ASKOLE

This is a group of hamlets and is said to be world's end surrounded by glacial seas. East to it is Baltoro glacier, north-east is Biafo glacier linked with the Hispar glacier. For their routes, see the following pages

#### Skardu to Askole.

There are several routes for Askole from Skardu but all are very difficult. The Braldah routes *via* Pakore, Foljo, and Dasu are easier than that by Skoro La which may be used by sportsmen. It is recommended to take a *purwana* (order) from Tehsildar of Skardu for collection of coolies at the time of the changes at Shigar, Foljo and Bianco

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu, 7,700 ft See page 195		Cross Indus by ferry Across sandy track, continue to west Descend to Shigar valley

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Shigar, 7,640 ft C, F, F S, T, G, W, RH, PO	16	Residence of local Raja Path fair through cultivation and willow avenues Leave Hashupa, an Alchori Cross sandy plateau to Koshumal
Yuno, 8 000 ft E, F, G W, S, T from Kostumal	22	Village Track stony and sandy Cross Braldah R Ascend and descend to Tiston Ascend to Dassu
Dassu, E, F, G, W, S, T	14	Village and orchards Path descends to river, remains below N te bluff, Cross another bluff to Stallam Saddle Descend to Bianco Tsedor and Kunar Cross Hoh nala
Gomboro, 9,200 ft E, S*, F*, T*, G*, W*.	14	Village Leave dangerous river side track m 6½ and ascend steep and descend at m 9 Cross by rope Br for Pakore Path easy by Tungal and Suringo
Askole, 10,000 ft E, F, G, W, S*, T	19	Collection of hamlets See above

From Yuno, there are two routes, (a) *Yuno to Foljo* is 20 miles Pass Tandara, Maricha and Gone Ascend and descend to Goyungo Foljo is a small village, (alt 9,000 ft, E, F, G, W, S, T) *Foljo to Pakore* is 15 miles The summer route is bad along cliffs and winter one good by the valley with ups and downs Pakore is a village, (alt 9,600 ft E, F, G, W, S, T) *Pakore to Askole* is 9 miles Descend to rope bridge below Chongo Cross river and ascend Further, the path is easy (b) *Yuno to Foljo*, see above *Foljo to Gomboro* is 8 miles via Bianco Descend to rope bridge Cross river below Bianco

Onward path is fair through cultivation *Gomboro to Askole, see above*

*Remarks* From Pakore, one track goes to Chongo

### Skardu to Askole Via Skoro La.

This route is only suitable for sportsmen and is open from July to September Transport is changed at Skoro Nakpur Gang (the snow dome) was ascended by Workman in 1899 Chere Chori, the rock peak was climbed by Dr Balestreri in 1928. Both are located to east and west of Skoro La respectively See page 203 also

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu, 7,700 ft Shigar, 7,690 ft	16	See page 203 See p 203 Path level and fair
Skoro 8,100 ft F, F, G, W, S, T	7	Village Track rough up Skoro lumba Ford torrents Ascend and descend
Skoro Lumba hut 12,500 ft E, G, W, F*	13	Track rough up the grassy slopes
Skoro La Bivouac 15,000 ft Small place for bivouac, G, snow W	4	Track rough and steep Avalanches often Slips likely after snow melting Cross Skora La, 16,700 ft Descend over snow to glacier Crevasses liable
Darso Brok, 13,500 ft E, G, W, F*	9	Camp below glacier Descend to Thal and rope Br
Askole	11	See page 203

*Remarks* Halts at Shigar and Skoro Lumba may be omitted when the pass is fully open

## **Baltoro Glacier**

Baltoro Glacier located in the east of Askole and below K<sub>2</sub> is one of the best glaciers in the world except Siachen out of the Arctic regions Conway's party climbed a lofty peak, the pioneer peak, 23,000ft between K<sub>2</sub> and Mt Gasherbrum Fine ibex is found on the hills above glacier The last camp where fuel, grass, water are obtainable is Rhodkass (Ordokas)

### **The Glacier Route**

The ice conditions of this route are varying and the help of Askole people should be taken, though sometimes they are unwilling to show travellers the way The marches are rough and tiresome

*Skardu to Askole*, See pages 203 to 205

*Askole to Korophon*, 10 miles First two miles are easy, then cross cliffs and Biafo Glacier The latter gives some trouble Camp at Korophon between Dumordo river and the glacier, (alt 10,400 ft E, W)

*Korophon to Bardumal*, 18 miles Path is easy upto Biaho-Dumordo confluence, mile 3 Ascend and descend Cross rope bridge at Ghurra, mile 8 and ascend Camp opposite Ching Kang Luma, (alt 11,000 ft, E, F, G, W)

*Bardumal to Paju*, 9 miles Path is rough up the Biaho valley Camp near snout of Baltoro glacier. (alt 11,600 ft. E, F, G, W)

*Paju to Choher Zechen*, 10 miles This march is tiresome over moraines and Baltoro Glacier Cross Choher Zechen glacier (alt 13,300 ft. E, F, G, W)

*Chober Zechen to Ordokas* (Rhodkass,) 7 miles  
Track by Baltoro Glacier Pass Chober Zechen  
and Choblak glaciers, (alt 13,900 ft E, I, G, W )

### **Biago and Hispar Glaciers**

Conway's party crossed the Hispar glacier from Nagar side when the weather was fine and snow in good condition Since then Dr and Mrs Workman have also traversed them and mapped both the glaciers Their adventures are fully recorded in the book, "The Call of the Hispar" For the routes, see above and also Chogo Longma Glacier below

### **The K.**

This is the loftiest peak of the Karakoram Range, (Mt Godwin Austen, 28,200 ft ) and the highest point in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and is second in the world, being next to Mt Everest This is located in north above the Baltoro Glacier and it is too steep and icy Mr Eckensteen reconnoitred K. in 1902 and gave its name 'Chogori' He remained over its glacier for over two months by camping at 19,000 ft

The Duke of Abruzzi with an Italian party explored round about 'K.' in 1909 and climbed upto the "Bride Peak", 24,600 ft Dr de Filippi's book has interesting accounts of this expedition Also see page 167

### **Muztagh Pass.**

This is in extreme north and across the Baltoro Glacier The route beyond Changtok or the Muztagh pass continues to Ishak-art Aghzi

thence to Kashgar *via* Aghil, Kukalung, Takhtkuram and Ishakart passes

There are two routes, one continues beyond Baltoro Glacier and the other by Punmah glacier. No information is available beyond Muztagh and Mr Younghusband is the only authority. When crevasses are doubtful over Punmah and Sarpo Lago glaciers or other places, parties should be roped

### (A) Route *Via* Baltoro.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Ordokas, see page 207		Cross Baltoro glacier, moraines and valleys
Lungka, 14,500 ft E, G, W	4	Camp at mouth of Muztagh Luma glacier Pass Chagaran
Lobsang Brangsa 15,700 ft E, G, W	4	Ascend glacier and the Muztagh pass, 18,250 ft Path dangerous
Changtok (Spantok), E, snow W	10	Junction of old and new routes from Muztagh Further track over Sarpo Lago glacier to Kashgar

### *Via* Punmah Glacier.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Askole to Ghurra, 10,900 ft E, F, W	18	See page 206 Track up and down
Tsok, 11,500 ft E, F, W.	9	Track up and down Torrent crossing difficult
Punmah glacier, 11,900 ft E, W, F*	8	Ascend Punmah glacier
Dumultier glacier 12,200 ft E, G, W	4	Track up the glacier

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skeenmurg, D, W, G	10	Track up Chiring glacier
Chiring	11	Steep ascent to Muztagh pass about 18,400 ft and descend
F, snow W		
Changtok	15	See page 208
Lobsang Brangsa	10	" " "

### Chogo Longma Glacier.

This glacier ends half a mile to west of Arandu Another is Tiporgan glacier to the south of the village Dr and Mrs Workman explored the head of the glacier and ascended as far as 23,000 ft

### Skardu to Arandu, Hispar glacier and thence to Nagar and Gilgit.

The Nushik La is safe for mountaineers from 15th June to 15th August Rope is used in this route and experience of previous climbing helps the traveller

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu		See p 203
Shigar	16	Cross river by skin raft Pass villages
Yonskil,	16	Village Leave several
E, F, G, W, S, T		villages and valley Cross
		parri Pass Bash and
		Braldah confluence and
		Tisser. A pretty water-fall
Chutran,	15	Hamlet Track fair by
E, F, G, W, PO, S*, T*		right bank of Bash R.
Arandu, 9,500 ft	20	Village Snout of Chogo
E, F, G, W, S*, T*		Longma glacier Cross
		by rope Br Track
		Kero Lungma nullah



Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kichik Brangsa, E, F, G, W	16	Track easy by right bank of Kero Lungma glacier
Stiatbu Brangsa E, snow W	10	Cross Nushik La 17,300 ft, Ups and downs difficult
Haigatum, 13,880 ft E, W, F, *G.*	12	Pass Haigatum glacier
Makorum as above.	13	Track rough Pass glacier
Hispar, 10,320 ft E, W, F * G *	13	Pass Chokutens huts
Paipering, 10,990 ft as above	16	Cross several glacier valleys Descend Hispar glacier valley
Nagar 7,550 ft E, G, W, S, T, R, H, F*	18	Hamlet Track rough
Dispy Fort,		March tiresome Cross moraines and streams
Minapin, 70,80 ft, E, F, G, W, R, H, S, *T*	17	Pass Hopar Road fair
Chalt, 6,560 ft, E, F, G, W, S, T, R, H	17	Residence of local Raja
Dispy, Telephone		Descend by Nagar R
Nomal, 5,500 ft E, W, R, H, F* G*	15	Confluence of Nagar & Hunza at Sumaiyar
Gilgit	17	Pass Tashot Br
		Village Pass villages of Pisan, Gulmat Thol & Nilt
		Leave Rakaposhu ice fields to one side
		Cross Sinkrabad Br
		Village and fort Cross
		Chaichar parrs Road
		liable to slip
		Village and fort Road
		fair by right bank of
		Hunza Cross Gilgit
		suspension Br
		See Gilgit (p 219)

### Another Route to Arandu.

This is another route by left bank Shigar to Koshumal is 6 hour's march, Koshumal to Chutran via Yuno and Tisser is 8 hour's march (See above and page 204 also) Chutran to Doko is 3 hour's march. Pass Dogoro and Sibri From Doko, there

is a route to Gulabpore Doko to Arandu is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hour's march The track is rough with ups and downs

*Remarks.* At Chutrun, meaning hot springs, are bathing tanks in which sick people of neighbouring villages bath The white marble is also found here The Kero Lungma glacier is joined with Huchus Alchori glacier

## Chutrun to Rondu (Mendi)

### *Via Ganto La*

This is a sportsmen's route and difficult It does not open before June

Stage	Inter hours	Nature of journey to next stage
Chutran See above		Ascend, Cross torrents Descend to huts Ascend to a meadow.
Camp, 12,100 ft E, W, G F	7	Track over snow and grassy spur Ascent steep up to Ganto La, 15,110 ft Descend to a meadow Path fair
Harimal, 10,000 ft as above	8	Fair, road down Turmik valley
Dasu,	3	Join route, page 201

*For route from Skardu to Gilgit via Stak La, see route, Gilgit to Skardu*

## Khapalu

Khapalu is the capital of Lower Shyok and a group of hamlets situated on a long slope It is the residence of the local Raja whose mansions are situated to the west with a pologround nearby The scenery is fine A little above is the Hushe Saltoro

Nullah which leads to Muztagh Ranges At Khapalu, there is a dispensary and a post office

### Skardu to Khapalu

There are three routes (a) by right bank, (b) by left bank and (c) *via* Thalle La

#### (a) Right Bank Route.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu, 7,700 ft See page 195		Cross Indus Road sandy and rough
Narh, E,F,G,W	12	Leave Indus A raft ferry connects road to Dras
Kiris, 7,560 ft E,F,G,W,S,T,RH,C	14	Village Residence of the local Raja Road sandy & stony Pass Gohu Cross Kuru Lumba
Kuru, 7,990 ft as above	10	Ascend plateau & descend steep Pass Kunis Cross Thalle Lumba
Doghani (Karku), 8,350 ft E,F,G,W,S,T,RH,P O	14	Village Road sandy & stony through valley Cross river by skin raft
Khapalu, 8,400 ft	14	See above & page 214

(b) There is also a route by the the left bank Skardu to Gol is 21 miles and Gol to Kiris is 8 miles, see page 197 Kiris to Khapalu, see above

#### (c) *via* Thalle La.

Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Skardu Shigar,	16	See page 203 Pass huts up Bauma herol valley
Bauma Harel 13,500 ft E,F,G,W	12	Hamlet Track up Yultsa Lumba Cross Thalle La, 16,000 ft and descend

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Dubla Khan, F, E, G, W	17	A track bifurcates to Tusserp La Track rough
Khusomik, 11,500 ft E, F, G, W	11	Village Pass huts of Daltir & Baltoro Des cend to Thalle Lumba
Doghani, 8,350 ft Khapalu	15 14	See above " "

## Khapalu to Kharmang

### Via Ganse La

This is a sportsmen's route and difficult It remains open from 15th July to 15th October

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Khapalu, (p 212)		Path up the nullah behind the village
Ganse Lungma E, G Snow W	6	Grazing grounds Track rough with patches of snow Ascend Ganse La, 16,500 ft
Gache Lungma F Snow W	14	Descend Track difficult
Gache Tso F, W, F*, G*	8	Lake Cross spur Pass Gandus Cross river by rope Br
Kharmang, 8,340 ft E F, G, W, S, T, RH	9	Village Join Route to Kashmir (p 197)

## Siachen Glacier.

There are great glacial valleys in the north and north east of Skardu and Khapalu which attract sportsmen and climbers The famous Siachen Glacier is in the north east of Khapalu

Dr Longstaff, Lt Slingsby and Dr A Nene discovered the great glacier in 1909 lying to the north of Saltoro Pass originating near Mt Gasherbrum. Dr Longstaff reascended from Nubra and proved it to be the Siachen Glacier, the biggest known glacier in Asia. Since then Mrs Bullock Workman has also explored, reached a column at the head of the glacier in 1912 and mapped it. Towards this side, a party of experts including Dr de Fillippi had gone in 1914 who studied the sources of the Yarkand and Shyok rivers.

No information is available beyond the glacier. The route discovered in 1909 by Dr Longstaff is as below. It is suggested to halt at any of the hamlets near the Hushe confluence. From Goma, a track leads to Chalunka, (page 218).

Up the Kundus valley is a fine place where scenery is magnificent. Dr and Mrs Workman went to this place (Khokhun hot springs) while returning from Siachen Glacier. It is one long and tiresome march.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Khapalu, 8,400 ft S,T,F,G,W,E,P O Dispy.	21	Large village. Ascend plateau and descend to river near Surmo, m 7. Cross to the bank of Shyok by skin raft at Chogogron. Descend, cross a spur & ascend to Saltoro valley.
Paron E,F,G,W,S*,T*.		Travel along right bank of Saltoro Pass Kundus & Dansam, m 4.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Palit, 10,050 ft. E, F, G, W, S*, T*	12	Path is fair Pass Goma m 9, last village Ford Saltoro R & ascend Ghyari Nala
Ghyari, 12,400 ft. E F, G W	16	Track ascends over Saltoro Pass or Bilafond Pass & is troublesome
Naram, 14,400 ft E, G, W	6	The track is up the Bilafond glacier Crevasses some times dangerous
Ali brangsa, 16 500 ft L, Snow W	7	Cross Saltoro Pass, 18,200 ft Rope in ascending and descending is preferred
Sia Chen glacier 16 000 ft E, Snow W	15	Camp under cliff

### Khapalu to Leh.

There are several routes to Leh from Khapalu (a) By left bank of the Shyok, (b) By Abadon and left bank of the Shyok, (c) By Abadon and Biagdangdo, (d) *via* Chorbat La The first is a new road constructed in 1912 The second and third are old roads and less used The Khardung La has to be crossed in the first three routes and remains open from June to November The Shyok river is crossed by skinrafts between Khapalu and Sogo but by bridges at Prahnu and Thiret between Chogogron and Abadon At other places also the Shyok is crossed by skinrafts which should be carried with one to avoid delay The river is fordable in winter at Khapalu, Pachathang and at Nubra-Shyok confluence Supplies should frugally be carried and a *parwana* from Tehsildar will assist in the way

The Chorbat La remains open from July to September but Yaks can pass in the end of

## Route A.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Khapalu, 8 400 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, P O		See p 211 Ascend plateau Descend to Surmo, m 7 Road rough
Lunkha, 8 500 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	14	Village Pass Dou, m 4 Cross Kustang, m 10 Road rough
Piun (Paxfain) 8,650 ft. E, F, G, W, S T	14	Village & Mosque Route bifurcates for Chorbat La Road liable to slips
Siari 8,740 ft E, W	13	Village opposite Prahnu Descend to river Pass Tyakste m 9 Ascend and descend to Turtok
Turtok, 9,000 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	13	Large village First 5 miles sandy, stony but path fair and then up and down Cross Tebe Lungma and Malakcha Lungma
Malakcha Lungma Camp 9,400 ft E, W	18	Path undulating and rough
Yaglung Lungma Camp 9,700 ft E, W, F *	9	Path shadeless but fair through valley Cross Pachathang Lungma
Kharu, 9,800 ft E, F, G, W S, T	13	Buddhist village Path fair Pass Pakhura and Spanpuk
Hundar, 9,900 ft E F, G, W, S, T	13	Village Path fair but stony and sandy Pass Deskit, m 6, Thirit, m 13
Khalsar	17	See page 172
To Leh.	37	" " 171

*Remarks.* The path from Siari to Khalsar is sandy and stony At Hunder there are orchards From Turtok, three days ration for the coolies should be carried

## Route B.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Khapalu, See above	...	See above up to Surmo Cross Shyok at Chogog- ron

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of Journey to next stage
Abadon 8 450 ft E,W,Γ*,G* S* T*	11	Village Cross several stony streams
Marcha, 8,550 ft E,F,G,W,S*,T*	11	Village Ascend & descend to Partuk Ascend to Kalan m 8 & descend
Prahnun, 8,750 ft E,F,G,W,S,T	14	Village Path down Shyok R Join above route,
Turtok	15	See above

## Route C.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Turtok.		Upto Turtok, see above Path rough Cross Shyok at Turtok and ascend
Chalunka E,F,G,W	10	Village Ascend cliffs & descend
Biagdangdo, 11,700 ft as above	10	Village Ascend Biagdangdo Lungma Pass Shupa, m 4 Cross steep Lagopa La, 13,143 ft & descend
Zdong-polas, 12,500ft E,F*,G*,W*,S*,T*	9	Buddhist village Track up & down to Waris nala
Waris, E F,G,W,S,T	5	Hamlet Path difficult See remarks below
Unmaru, E,F,G,W,S*,T*	20	Village Path sandy
Mondari, E,F,G,W,S,T	8	Village Cross river by skin raft
Hundar, 9,900	11	Join route as above

**Remarks** From Biagdangdo, there is a short cut to Hundar by staging at Hotuny but rivers are forded Before taking up this route, enquiries should be made at Biagdangdo whether river is fordable beyond Waris If impracticable, animals should go south east of the pass through steep and sandy tra



From Chalunka, there is a route up the Korisa glacier, Chulung La, Chulang glacier to Goma in the Saltoro valley See page 215

### Route D.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of Journey to next stage
Khapalu, 8,400 ft Lnnkha, p. 216 Piun, 8,650 ft See p 216	14 14	See page 216 Track stony Cross river banks at m 2 & 7 Then up grassy valley of Chorbat Lungma.
Chunga, 14,500 ft r, G, W, B	12	Hamlet Track up Chorbat Lungma Cross Chorbat La 16,700 ft Descend
Goma Hanu (upper) E, W, S*, T* F* G*	19	Village group Pass Nabi Brangsa Track stony Cross Broglon nala & Skirbuchar Br at Achi natung
Skirbuchar E, W, I*, G*	18	Village Track stony & rough Cross ravines, spurs and Dumkhar Chu
Khalatse, 9,700 ft	16	Join Srinagar-Leh Road , p 162

### Khapalu to Kashmir

There are several routes and most popular are the following —

(A) Khapalu to Skardu, see page 212 (Route A) and Skardu to Kashmir, see page 196

(B) Khapalu to Skardu, see page 212 (Route C) and Skardu to Kashmir, see page 196

(C) Khapalu to Khar-mang, see page 213, Khar-mang to Kharal, see page 197 and Kharal to Srinagar, see page 196

### Skardu to Leh.

Skardu to Khapalu, see page 212 and Khapalu to Leh, see page 215

## CHAPTER XVII

### GILGIT.

Gilgit is a country of lofty precipitous mountains and glacier-borne torrents situated in the extreme north-western region of the Himalaya Range with nearly 20 peaks varying in height from 18,000 ft. to 26,600 ft lying within a radius of 60 miles in Gilgit territory. Its climate is warm and dry and snow-fall is little. It is almost a barren country with narrow stripes of cultivation on the banks of the rivers. This part of Kashmir, being a frontier division of the State, has got a great political importance.

Gilgit is the main town, a cantonment for Kashmir troops and headquarters of the province. There is a fort, bazar, post and telegraph offices, telephone, dispensary and rest house. A British Political Agent resides at Gilgit and an Asst Political Agent resides at Chilas.

Politically, Gilgit includes two tehsils of Gilgit and Astor in addition to numerous valleys leading down the Gilgit river. On the frontier, there are several chiefs such as those of Chitral, Nagar, Hunza, Yasin, and others who acknowledge suzerainty of Kashmir. Also these chiefs are under political officers. See page 152.

The British Agency was established in 1899 due to busy traffic in connection with supply and transport Corps of the Indian Army. Their object was also to establish peace and order in this region. The rulers agreed to respect the control thus imposed.

Historically, Astor and Gilgit were not annexed by the Sikhs until in 1842. Yasin invaded Gilgit and thereupon the rulers of Gilgit sought help from the Sikhs whose Commander, Nathu Shah, the brave made dreadful resistance and finally occupied Gilgit. He married the daughters of the Chiefs of Hunza, Nagar and Yasin.

In 1852, Gilgit was again invaded from Yasin and garrisons were massacred. In 1860, Devi Singh re-occupied Gilgit and subjugated even Yasin. A punitive expedition was sent in 1865 to Hunza which was unsuccessful and consequently the tribes around Gilgit again rose but reinforcement checked their advance. Further Darel was invaded. Since that time Dogra ascendancy has been undisputed although the people of Hunza rebelled on several occasions. They were subdued in 1891-92 by Col Durand. Also the conquest of Chilas by Sir George Robertson in 1895 completed consolidation of the most northern portion of the frontier. He held a great durbar at the end of 1895 in which all the neighbouring Chiefs participated and thus a new era was inaugurated and internal political autonomy was established among them.

Also the heroic defence of Chitral by a handful of English officers and native troops, reinforcement of

Col Kelley's small force from Gilgit and the gallant advance of Sir Robert Lowe are memorable records of the history of this region. The Kashmir territory now touches the boundaries of Russia and China after the work of the Pamir Boundary Commission.

The people of Gilgit and Astor are Dard and classified by many under Galcha who are Aryans. They are strong, stout and brave, and are of medium height. Their features are oval and long but nose curved. They are Mohemadans by religion except the people of Kafiristan. They wear dark woollen clothes with a bag-like cap with its edges rolled up.

Permission is indispensable to enter Gilgit or to travel beyond Kamri Pass. See "Limits of travel in the direction of Ladakh and Gilgit" in the appendix.

### Srinagar to Gilgit.

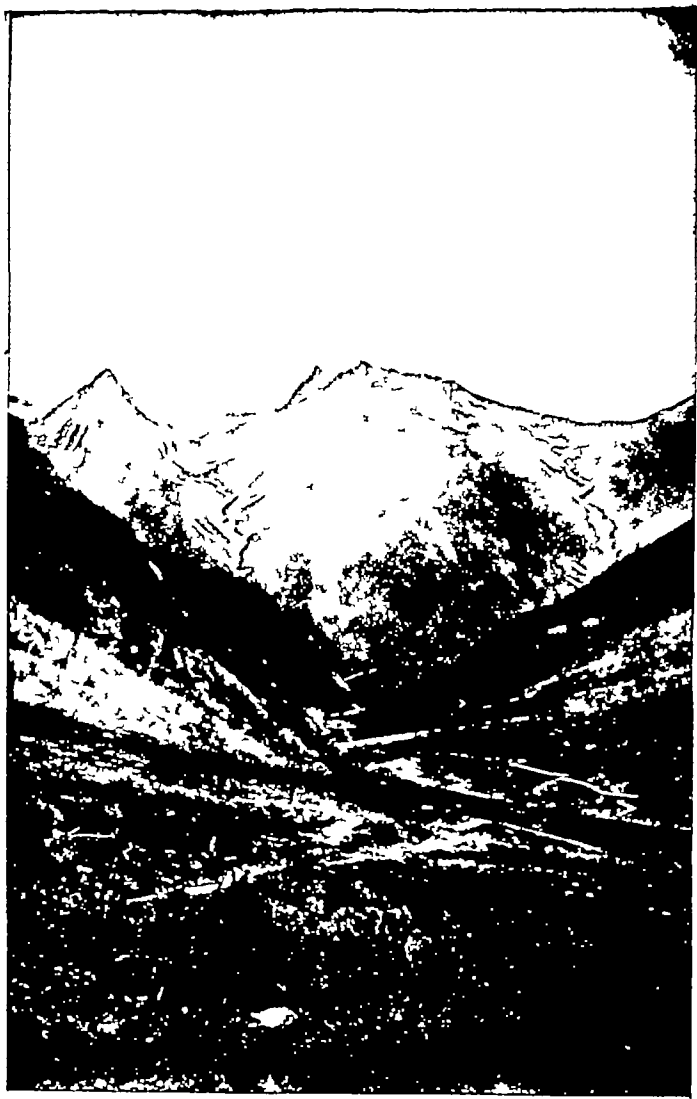
The route is often spoken of as Gilgit Road. In winter and spring, the Burzil Pass remains closed for pack animals. Heavy snow falls over the pass in March and April, and the road may be found under snow upto 15th May inspite of the repairs being done regularly. It is recommended to cross the pass in spring season in the night as avalanches are frequent. Unofficial travellers must arrange their own transport some days in advance and the help of Naib-Tehsildar should be taken in it. ~~Some~~ are limited at Astor and without written ~~nothing~~ nothing can be had.

*Srinagar to Sumbal, 15½ miles* Road is fair along the banks of the Jhelum Pass Shadipur at 11½ miles (See page 67 as well) Sumbal is a village, (alt 5,206 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, P O)

*Sumbal to Bandipur, 19½ miles.* Road is fair down the Jhelum A road bifurcates to west for Manasbal lake and to east for Wular lake Pass Safapur, at mile 2 and Ajas, at mile 8 Bandipur (Bandapur) is a large village and terminus of Gilgit Road, (alt 5,212 ft, E, F, G, W, S, T, RH, P O, T O, Dispy, bazar)

*Bandipur to Tragbal, 12 miles* Cross Bodkol at Sonarwan Here a transport official resides Road is rough and steep Pass Kralpur mile 5. Ascend to Tragbal This is a pretty meadow and from the summits above are visible fine views of Wular lake, Pir Punjal ranges and Harmukh The water supply is through pipes from a higher Marg Good camping site is a mile below at Hap Kalan Marg (Tragbal alt. 9,340 ft. E, G, W, RH, O, F)

*Tragbal to Kanzalwan, 18 miles* The road is ascending through forest Cross Razdhainangan Pass whose highest point is 11,586 ft 5 miles beyond Tragbal Here is a shelter hut and one more at Safed Pathar, 2 miles down the former hut. From the pass, descend to Zalkusa Pass Gorai and Koragbal, (alt 8,400 ft E, F, G, W, RH, S\*, T\*) Road is fair down the Gorai valley to Kanzalwan, (alt 7,700 ft. E, F, G, W, S, T\*) From here, routes lead to Kel and Skardu



U L P H

BURZIL PASS

KASHMIR



*Kanzalwan to Gurais, 10 miles* Cross and re cross bridges over Kishenganga Road is fair on both the banks There is a tehsil and fort (between Dawar and Markut) at Gurais It is a large village (alt 7,940 ft, E, F, G, W, RH, T O, P O, dispy, depot of s, & T, 4 miles down) There is an alternative route between Kanzalwan & Astor, see Astor

*Gurais to Peshwari, 14 miles.* The road is gradual ascending through narrow valley A little below the road at mile 4, pass Chorwan (s and T depot) Near Chorwan is Sonawar whence a path goes to Tilel Pass Zain and Bangla huts Pass Kamri hamlet, mile 10½ and ascend the Kamri pass Peshwari is a hamlet (alt 9,000 ft, E, F, G, W, RH)

*Peshwari to Burzil Chauki, 11 miles* The road continues gradually ascending, and enters into an open grassy valley Cross Rathak bridge, mile 5 At the 6th mile is Minumarg, a fine meadow, (alt. 9,350 ft. E, F, G, W, P O, T O) This march is liable to avalanches in April and May The Deosai route (p 199) diverges to Skardu from Burzil Chauki It is a stage, (alt 11,150 ft. E, F, G, W, RH)

*Burzil Chauki to Chllam, 17 miles* The path is steep. Ascend the Burzil Pass, 13,775 ft mile 6 and then descend The path remains blocked by snow in winter but dak runners struggle through At the 5th and 6th miles, there are stone shelter huts, one at the summit and one at Sardar Kothu respectively Chllam is a stage, (E, F, G, W, RH, P O in summer, s & T from depot after permission)

*Chllam to Godhai, 16 miles* Gradually descend to Das bridge which should be cro



mile 4½ Further the road passes through contracted valley with rugged scenery Pass Khirim (polo-ground) mile 8 From Godhai, a path leads to Skardu *via* Alampi La (p 199). An easy ascent to the top of the hill on the right gives a beautiful glimpse of Nanga Parbat. Godhai is a small village (alt 9,100 ft, E, F, G, W, S\*, T\*, RH)

*Godhai to Astor, 17 miles* Gradually descend to the upper Naogam bridge Cross it and again cross another one The Astor river is joined at Gurikot, mile 11 where it is crossed by a steel cable suspension bridge having 190 ft span. Near the bridge is an inspection bungalow. Six miles further is Astor [T (ponies), S (from military, depot), alt 7,200 ft. E, F, G, W, RH, P O, T.O, Dispy,)]

*Astor to Dashkin, 14 miles.* The country is barren and journey is hot in summer The road is gradually ascending Pass Harcho bridge, mile 11 and once more a little further on There is a waterfall near the bungalow in Dashkin It is a village with T (ponies), S (from military depot), E, F, W, RH, C, G in summer,

*Dashkin to Doyan, 11 miles* Road is along hillside above the river Pass forest & Mushkin, mile 4 Ascend a little (from here a fine view is visible) and descend. Doyan is a village, (alt 7,800 ft. E, F, G,\* W, RH, C, summer S and T from military)

*Doyan to Bunji, 18 miles.* This march is tiresome. Ascend zigzag Hatu Pir spur and descend to Astor bridge at Ramghat. Heat is fierce in summer. There is a guard house at Ramghat.

(alt 4,130 ft E, W F,\* G,\*) Bunji is a village with a fort and bazar, situated over a sandy tract and was used as a Convict Settlement. (alt 4,650 ft. F, G, W, RH, PO, T O, telephone for Gilgit, S,\* T,\* F\*)

stationed on Rangmarg, a few miles above Astor Rangmarg is a beautiful place with Alpine scenery About 20 miles away from Astor is the beautiful village of Tarshing where are alpine pastures and whence the view of Nanga Parbat is very fine For the routes to Astor see page 221 and below

### NANGA PARBAT

Nanga Parbat or *Dyamir* is the eighth highest summit in the world being 26,627 ft and is, in some respects, regarded the grandest mountain in the world The white outlook of the great mass and towering dome of ice above the dark lower ranges with large glacier at the foot is a wonderfully excellent sight Though, it is the continuation of the Himalayas, it is turned at right angles to the general axis and the mountains around it are none above 17,000 ft and hence it is seen unobstructedly from all sides and from great distances It is visible even from Murree, about 100 miles away It is seen from Gor on the Indus about 30 miles and from the passes leading into Astor,

Various expeditions have been made to reach the peak The disadvantages in climbing are accounted to be unfavourable weather conditions for many consecutive days accompanied by avalanches The weather conditions are here worse than those on the Karakoram Many have to face adverse conditions and have lost their lives Mr Mummery who attempted to climb the Nanga Parbat with two Gurkha Guides died in 1895 due probably to avalanches

There are large glaciers below Nanga Parbat and that on the east descends to Rupal Nullah (alt 9,000 ft) below which is a road which goes to Rupal Bridge and connects the Kamri route *via* Gurikot. For the route to Nanga Parbat, follow Srinagar to Guraïs (page 222) and Guraïs to Astor *via* Kamri route as below

### Guraïs to Astor *Via* Kamri Pass.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Guraïs 7,940 ft See page 223 Kamri, 10,500 ft F, F, G, W, RH	13½	Follow the Burzil Rd up to 10½ m (hamlet) and ascend. Ascend gradually to Kamri Pass 13,368 ft m 6. Road is slippery during rains. Descend.
Kalapani, 10,850 ft I, I, G, W, RH	15½	Road fair down Kamri valley.
Chechri Kadal 9,800 ft as above	10	(Shankarpurh) Road fair down open valley, pass hamlets.
Rattu, 9,100 ft F, I, G, W, RH, PO, (Summer) S*, T*	15	Village. A road leads to Sonthar Pass. Fine view of Nanga Parbat obtainable from here. Pass Mons and Chogan, m 4½. Cross Rattu nala, m 7. Reach Rupal B- whence to Nanga Parbat for climbing.
Gurikot, 7,650 ft E, F, G, W, S*, T*, ID	15	Join Gilgit Rd, See page 224.
Astor, 7,200 ft	6	See page 224.

**Remarks** From Rupal Bridge, a path ~~leads to~~ Chont village whence three miles further ~~to~~ village. The view of Nanga Parbat ~~is very~~ Tarshing

People prefer to return from Gilgit by this route as fuel and grass are better than on the route, page 223

### **Kanzalwan to Astor Via Gagai Pass.**

This is an alternative route between Kanzalwan and Astor (page 223) but this is a gujar track and is easy for coolies in summer

*Kanzalwan to Taobat, 9 miles.* Track is fair along the Kishenganga bank Pass Bagtor, m 3 Taobat is a hamlet, (alt 7,500 ft r, F, G W)

*Taobat to Gagai Camp, 10 miles.* Track is rough up the nalas of Gagai, Chhatri and Chhota Gagai (alt 10,000, E, F, G, W)

*Gagai Camp to Reat Camp, 10 miles.* Ascend steep, cross Gagai Pass, 13,950 ft and descend to Reat nala, (alt 11,500 ft E, r, G, W)

*Reat Camp to Chechri Kadal, 11 miles* Track is as above to Kamri or Kalapani river Cross it and join Kamri route (page 227) (Alt 9,800 ft E, F, G, W, RB)

## **CHILAS.**

It is a feudatory state to Kashmir of which Chilas is the capital town situated on the banks of the Indus, 3,700 ft above the sea level. There is a fort in which are stationed Kashmir Imperial Service Troops for the maintenance of peace and order An Assistant Political Resident resides here Bazar, post and telegraph offices are present here. There is a direct road from Chilas to Abbotabad for quick exit to the plains For the routes see below

## Abbotabad to Chilas.

This route is the shortest one for Chilas from the plains and is open between July and October but permission is indispensable to be taken from the Deputy Commissioner of Hazara. Camel transport can be used upto 3rd stage Arrangement of further supplies and mules should be made at Balakot. One should apply A C R E Abbotabad to use the military bungalows on the way

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Abbotabad, 4,010 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, DB, C, etc	.	Town (See p. 31) Road motorable
Mansehra, 3,530 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, MB, DB PO, TO, Dispy	16	Village Leave main road beyond Uttar Shisha and take left one
Jaba 3,575 ft, E, I, G, W, MB, S, T	13	Village Road fair Des. cend to Kunhar R
Ealakot, 3,380 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	11	Village Road fair Cross several bridges
Kawai, 4,990 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, MB	12½	Village Road fit for mules but liable to slips
Manaur (Mandari) 5,150 ft E, F, G, W, S, * T *	13½	Village Road rough and liable to slips
Kagan, 6,750 ft E, F, G, W, PO, IRRH, MB, S*, T*	11	Village Road fair but liable to avalanches before Narang Cross Paludar Br
Narang, 8,040 ft E, F, G*, W, MB	14	Village Road as above Cross bridges
Butta Kumdi, 8,820 ft E, F, G, W, MB	10	Village Pass Butta Kundi, Dunga Katha and Burawai bridges
Burawai, 9,740 ft E, F, G, W, MB, T	9	Village Road fair Cross Kunhar Br
Basal 10,770 ft E, W G*, MB	12	Road fair Pass Lalusar lake
Gittidas 11,930 ft as above	8	Ascend Babusar Pass 13,685 ft m 4 an

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Babusar, 9,750 ft E, F, G, W, RH, S*, T*	12	Village Summer residence of Asstt Pol Agent, Chilas Road fair down the valley Pass Thak, m 8 Cross bridges over Babusar streams
Singal, 5,200 ft E, F, G, W S, T, RH, C.	13	Village Road fair
Chilas, 4,150 ft	10	E, F, G, W S, T, PO, TO etc

*Remarks* From Burawal, tracks lead to Kashmir *via* Kalapani Gali and Ratti Gali passes You may march from Basal to Babusar and thereby miss Gittidas halt

### Kashmir to Chilas *Via* Barai Pass

This road is known as Tragbal-Chilas Conway Road It remains open from 16th June to 15th October Snow is found over Barai and Fasat passes all the year round and snow-drifts are met early in the year

Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Srinagar		See page 222
Tragbal page 222	47	Ascend and descend
Zand Dudi, 9,500 ft. E, F, G, W	21	Pass Dudi, Tsuntwar and Dhekki Descend to Kishenganga R. & cross it
Kel, 6,900 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	26	Village Road fair Ascend Bundar Nala, Pass Mohri, m 10
Gujar Domel, 10,650 ft E, F, G, W	14	Ascend steep Barai Gali, 14,189 ft and descend
Barai E, W, F*, G*, RH	8½	Hamlet Ascend steep Fasat Pass 15,000 ft Descend to Niat nala

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Niat, 7 520 ft	16	Village Road fair Join
E F G, W, RH		Abbotabad route at Thak,
Singal	9½	m 6
Chilas	10	See page 230
		" " 230

### Kashmir to Chilas *via* Lolab.

The most direct route from Kashmir to Chilas is as follows. Snow remains over the Kamakdori pass all the year round but it is open for six months.

*Sopore to Chogal, 16 miles* See page 95 & 112

*Chogal to Kambrial, 16 miles* The road is good (page 95 & 112)

*Kambrial to Camp, 8½ miles* The road is rough up the grassy valley along Sochar stream. Cross to the left bank and camp at about 9,000 ft.

*Camp to Camp, 10½ miles* Ascend steeply and cross the pass, 11,000 ft approximately and descend to the valley downward. Camp in forest.

*Camp to Shardi, 8½ miles* Ascend and cross spur. Descend to Kishenganga. Shardi is a village. Here is a fort and an ancient Kashmiri temple.

*Shardi to Sangam, 9 miles.* Cross Kishenganga and Sotsati streams. Ascend gradually.

*Sangam to Camp (Damelat), 9 miles.* The road is rough. Ascend and keep to north east. Camp above forest.

*Camp to Kamakdori, 10 miles* Ascend steeply and cross Kamakdori pass, 13,750 ft mile 5.

*Kamakdori to Daloi, 15 miles.* Descend steeply.



Pass Niat village, mile 8 Here join the route, page 231.

### Chilas to Gilgit

This is a fairly good road but heat is troublesome during summer The road is almost through the Indus valley There are levy and S & T posts Fuel and grass may be arranged by previous notice to A P A Chilas

Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Chilas, 4,150 ft see page 230	11	Road fair through Indus valley Country barren
Bunar Parri, 3,715 ft E, W, RH, S and T post		Levy post Road as above
Jalipur, as above	16	Levy post Road as above
Talliche, 4,150 ft as above	19	Cross Rakhlot Br Village Road as above
Safed Parri, 4,800 ft E, W, G, F*, S and T post	20	Cross Partabpul mile, 11 Ascend gradually along
Gilgit, 4,900 ft	19	Gilgit R. Pass Minawar, m 10 (E F, G, W,) Accend Jutial barracks, m 17 See page 225

### Astor to Chilas.

This is a difficult track and some knowledge of mountaineering is useful Avalanches and falling stones are dangerous towards higher slopes of Nanga Parbat

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Astor 7,200 ft See page 224, 225 Tarshing, 9,000 ft E, W, F*, G*, S*, T*, Fort	17	See p 225 Track is rough up the Rupal Br to Tarshing Village Track rough up the Rupal Nullah

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kaonagod	14	Track rough and steep,
E, W		Cross Mazen Pass 17,500 ft
Zamalbazi	12	Cross pass and descend over
E, W		glacier to Bunar nala
Bunar,	10	Village Track rough
E, F, G, W, S, T		
Bunar Parri,	11	Join route, page 232
Chilas	11	" " " "

## HUNZA AND NAGAR.

The territories of these petty states, feudatory to Kashmir Darbar, are naturally protected by unfordable rivers and lofty mountains. Their chiefs pay a nominal tribute to Kashmir Maharaja (page 152). The valley is fertile and villages are scattered. The habitation is mostly confined to the banks of the Hunza river. The Hunza people used to attack the Yarkand caravans. Both Hunza and Nagar tribes used to fight with one another but strange to note that they used to attack Gilgit unitedly. A British Political officer resides at Hunza. Nagar is the chief town of Nagar State and the residence of the local Raja and Baltit is the chief town of Hunza and residence of the Mir of Hunza.

The Hunza people are mohemadans of the Mulai sect and the Nagar people are Shias. The population of the whole valley is about 15,000 and wheat, barley, millet and many kinds of fruits are grown.

From Nagar, one can go to Hispar glacier, Haightum glacier and Nushik La, for their routes see page 210.

## **Gilgit to Nagar**

See page 210

## **Gilgit to Hunza.**

*Gilgit to Minapin, 49 miles* See page 210

*Minapin to Aliabad, 11 miles* The road is fair Cross Tashot bridge, mile 3 for Hunza banks Road ascends Hassanbad valley Aliabad (Hunza) is a village with a fort, (alt 7,350 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, RH, telephone, dispy).

*Aliabad to Baltit, 6 miles* The road is fair Pass several villages Baltit is the capital town of Hunza, (alt 8,000 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, telephone) The road further on continues to Kashgar

## **Nagar to Hunza**

Follow the route upto Tashot, page 210 and further as above

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## CHAPTER XVIII

### HUNTING IN KASHMIR.

Kashmir is a unique place for hunters being a habitual playground of small and big game of innumerable varieties. Wild goats, deer, bear, leopard, fir animals etc., are present in abundance. A fauna of game is given

*Wild goat* Ibex has got a wide range of habitation and horns usually attain 50 inches. Markhor of Astor and Pir Panjal variety are abundant in the State and their horns measuring more than 50 inches are eagerly sought for. The *tahr* possesses short but beautiful horns and is regarded as a trophy on account of the length of the mane. The serow is a goat antelope found high in the rocky mountains of Kashmir, Pir Panjal and Kashmir. Goral and Himalayan Chamois are present in Kishtwar and on the outer ranges of Kashmir. Blue bull, the *rilgai*, is sacred animal and is preserved in Jammu Province. Black buck, the Indian antelope, is present only in the plains. Tibetan antelope and gazelle are found over 12,000 ft chiefly in the districts of Ladakh, and the horns of the former usually measure 22" to 27" and those of the latter from 12" to 15".

*Wild Sheep* Hodgson's sheep (*Ovis*) are found above 15,000 ft in Ladakh and the...

*Other birds* Most of them are found in summer and afford sport Faintail, painted snipe, wood cock are found in Kashmir Jack snipe is seen in winter Ravens are found in Ladakh Magpies are met within Ladakh and Baltistan and the yellow-billed blue-winged species is found in Kashmir Carion and jungle crows are evenly distributed, while jackdaws and Indian house crows are found at lower altitudes

Nutcrackers, choughs. (jays) and laughing thrushes including the Himalayan whistling thrush are popular Bulbul of white cheeked variety are abundant Nuthatches (three varieties) and drongas (two varieties) are found Kashmir wren is met in Kashmir but the wall cheeper variety is found in winter

Warblers are frequently found in Kashmir Shrikes are very common The mellow notes and paradise fly catchers are common in summer

Bush Chat is found in the whole of Kashmir valley Western spotted forktail frequent streams in the hills Redstarts may be found upto 11,000 ft Rubins also visit the State Ouzels are common Rock thrushes are some of the most handsome birds of Kashmir.

Himalayan gold finch, little gold fronted finch, orange bull finch and a few of rose finches are met with in the State Swallows and martins are seen in summer only Many varieties of pipits, wagtails and skylarks are frequent The purple sunbird is found only in the plains

Some varieties of Indian and European rollers are more or less met with Cuckoo and *Koel* are plenty Paroquets breed in Lolab valley There are fine owls in Kashmir, rock-horned and scops varieties are plentiful.

Hawk and fishing eagles are found almost on all hill tops Griffon vultures are plentiful

## GENERAL INFORMATION.

### Big Game Shooting Areas.

The big game shooting areas in the State are (1) Baltistan (including Skardu and Kargil tehsils) where sharpu, ibex, markhor and red bear are found, (2) Ladakh area where Tibetan antelope, Tibetan gazelle, burhel, ovis ammon, wolf, snow leopard are found, (3) Astor area where markhor, ibex, snow leopard, red bear, musk deer and wolf are found, (4) Kajnag and Shamsberry area where markhor, musk deer, red bear, serow and black bear are found, (5) Gurais and Machhil area where ibex, red bear, black bear, leopard and musk deer are found, (6) Valley proper area where leopard, black bear, musk deer, barasingha, pig and serow are found, (7) Kishtwar and Wardwan area where ibex, musk deer, red beer, black bear, barasingha, thar, goral, leopard, wolf and serow and (8) Jammu province area where musk deer, cheetal, black beer, barasingha, thar, goral, leopard, wolf and pig are found

The shooting season in the above areas from 1 to 4 are divided into two periods i e from 15th Apr

to 14th July (1st period) and from 15th July to 14th October (2nd period )

One should personally apply to the game warden in Srinagar for shooting in the above areas for the first period on 2nd January and for the second period from any place by post on that date or later

### BIG GAME NULLAHS.

The following is the list of big game nullahs in Kajnag, Astor and Baltistan areas available for booking (1st period, 15th April to 14th July and 2nd period, 15th July to 14th October,

- In Kajnag Area*    1   Lumber for Markhor and Goral only    2   Islamabad where Brown bear shooting is prohibited except in Shemshberry section of Mozi    3   Maidan    4   Goojar Kathai    6   Mozi
- In Astor area*    1   Abedibar for Markhor    2   Burmaie for Markhor and Ibex    3   Dashkat    4   Khiltar    5   Myadass for Markhor    6   Mushkin for Markhor
- In Baltistan area*    1   Tsuru for Markhor and Ibex    2.   Baragicha for Markhor and Ibex.    3   Turmic for Markhor and Ibex.    4   Nur for Ibex and Sharpu    5   Ghoru for Ibex and Sharpu    6   Alchori for Ibex & Sharpu    7   Hoshapa for Ibex & Sharpu

*Remarks* Brown bear may be shot in the nullahs of Astor and Baltistan according to the nature of the license

*Other Nullahs* The nullahs of Alchor, Hoshpa, Nurh, Ghoru, Turmic, Tsurı & Bragicha in Baltistan are made open. Special permission is necessary to shoot in them. One gun is allowed in each nullah for one period. Applications are considered for the 1st period (15th April to 14th July) by priority of their receiving on arrival in Kashmir and for the 2nd period (15th July to 15th October) by application from any place.

### **Ammon and Sharpu Blocks.**

The following are the Ammon and Sharpu blocks available for booking during 1st period (16th April to 15th July) and 2nd period (16th July to 14th October) and others as stated are not available.

*Ammon Blocks:* (1) The water shed of the Koyal river upto Indus—Koyal confluence and below this all tributaries of the Indus upto Dungi (2) The Hanle river basin (south of) (3) The tributaries of the Indus between the Punga and Hanle rivers (4) The country lying between No 2 of Ammon block and 3 of Sharpu block on the east and No 3 of the Sharpu block and 4 of Ammon block on the west (5) The basins of the Tso Moriri lakes and the Phirsi Nullah (6) The watershed of Zara and Rukchen rivers (7) The watershed of Marka river (8) The Changchenmo (9) The triangular area upto Choosbal on the north, frontier on the east, the Choosbal and C'



Foo watershed on the west and Indus on the south from Chamatnag to Dungti

Besides the above, there are other blocks which are not available for shooting. (1) The tributaries of the Indus from Demchok to Koyul (2) The Hanle river as far as the south of the Hanle monastery (3) The basin of the salt lakes and tributaries of the Indus between (and including) the Puga river as far as the water of the Tiri Foo (4) The Tiri Foo and the country lying to the north bounded by the Indus on north and east, the Leh—Kulu Road on the west and watershed of Tsokar Camo plain on the south (5) The Kharnak Nullah

*Sharpu Blocks* (1) The Igu and Chimre nullah. (2) Umal and Nimu (3) Bazgo and Myel. (4) Likir and Suspul and Woleh Drohpa (5) Damkar and Hanu (6) Hemis-Shukpa Narlah and Khalsi (7) The watershed of the Zaskar and Marka rivers but including Shew nullah (8) Rampakh (9) Masho (10) Shera and Lockchey (11) Kamdok.

Besides the above, there are other blocks which are generally not available for shooting, (1) Nang and Sabu, (2) Phyang and Tara, (3) Hemiskot and Wanla, (4) Iluchi and Lardu, (5) Stock and Shang

### Sport Licenses

*No 1 of Rs 175* This is available from 15th March to 15th Nov and permits to kill 2 markhor, 3 ibex, 2 sharpu, 2 ammon, 4 burhel, 3 Tibetan antelope, 1 Tibetan gazelle, 2 Kashmir stag, 4 serow, 2 brown bear, 4 tehr, 4 goral, small games vide item

No 19 of the rules of hunting (see appendix) and black bear, pigs and leopards with no limit.

*No. II of Rs. 55.* This is available from 15th March to 15th Nov. and permits to kill black bear, leopard and pigs with no limit.

*No III of Rs. 105* This is a winter license available from 16th Nov. to 14th March and permits to kill 2 markhor, 2 ibex, 2 sharpu, 3 burhel, 3 Tibetan antelope, 1 Tibetan gazelle, 1 Kashmiri stag, 1 serow, 3 tehr, 2 brown bear, 3 goral, small games subject to rule 19 of the rules of hunting (see appendix and under license No V and black bear, leopard and pigs with no limit

*No IV of Rs 50* This is available from 16th Nov to 4th March and permits to kill 2 ibex, and 2 sharpu in Baltistan and lower Ladakh, 2 burhel and 2 sharpu in upper Ladakh, 4 sharpu in Astor and Bunji, 1 brown bear, 2 black bear, 1 ibex in Gurais valley and also small game under license No V.

*No VA of Rs 70* This permits to shoot peasants, chikor and partridges from 1st October to end of February, geese, duck and teal from 16th September to 14th April and snipe from 1st September to 31st March

*No VB of Rs 42.* This is available for 2 months from the date of issue and permits to kill all small games vide license No V A

*No VC of Rs. 70.* As in V A (see above) but permits to use punt and long guns for killing wild fowl.

*No VD of Rs. 15* This is available 7 days and permits to kill all small games vid No VA

*No VI of Rs. 70.* This is a special license and permits to kill one musk deer (rare case)

*No VII of Rs. 40* This is a license for trapping all vermins

*Remarks.* No one can hold more than one license (I to V) Holders of license (I to V) can kill Ram Chikor between 16th September and 1st May, pigs on left bank of the Jhelum above Srinagar and on both sides below Srinagar but 5 miles away from the Rakhs and can shoot leopards including ounces, wolves foxes, martens and other vermins

License No II can be exchanged with No I, No VA with No I or III, No VB with No VA, No VD with VA or VB after payment of the difference No refund is permitted

*For rules regarding hunting in Kashmir and Jammu State, see the Appendix*

*All applications for licenses and enquiries, regarding game should be made to the Game Warden, Srinagar either personally or by letter*

### **Skins and Furs.**

Leopard skins are excellent but merchants ask high prices Ounce's skins (good for carriage rugs) are available at low prices. Tibetan lynx skin has got a good demand but supply is short Waved and civet cat furs are abundant Beech, marten, fox, marmots and Indian marten skins are preferred by the ladies The visitors also like palm civets and white nosed weasels The black wolf skins obtained from Ladakh are very fine Jackal skins are used for rugs and mats The under fleece of ibex makes good blankets and that of Chinese goat makes good shawls

Tourists are recommended to insist on purchasing skins in rough dried condition and get them set up in England. However, the following will give you an idea about the work done in Kashmir

### Rates of Taxidermists.

The charges of the taxidermists vary very much according to the quality of the work. It is recommended to compare the rates of different shops and quality of the work be decided before the work is actually started.

The following are the popular rates

Nature of Work	Charges in Rs		
Curing skins of Ibex, Markhor and skins of similar sizes	6	0	0
Curing of Barasingha	9	0	0
Curing skins of lessor Ovis etc	5	0	0
Curing skins of Otter, Jackals, Foxes, Marmots, Martens etc	2	8	0
Curing head skins of Trophies only	2	0	0
Cleaning skull of Ovis Poli, Ammon	5	0	0
Cleaning skulls of Markhor, Bears, Barasingha and Ibex	3	0	0
Cleaning skulls of lessor Ovis Antelopes, Gazelle, etc	2	0	0
Setting of heads of Barasingha, Ibex, Markhor, Thar, etc	28	0	0
Complete with English eyes and mounted on shield, setting of heads of Sharpu, Burhel etc	24	0	0
Curing of Bears, Leopard or Wolf's skins	9	0	0
Extra for mounting Bear, wolf or leopard skins on Saloo (cotton) with 6" cloth border	8	0	0
Mounted entirely on the best quality of English cloth		0	
Extra for setting up heads complete w English eyes and mounted on shield			

## CHAPTER XIX

### FISHING IN KASHMIR

The Kashmir lakes and rivers which are one of the special features of this land of beauty provide excellent sport for anglers. There is a large number of the species of the indigenous fishes which are met with in mountain streams, river Jhelum and nearly in all its tributaries. The fish supplies food to most of the poor people. The chief tributaries of the Jhelum are Bringhi, Arput, Rembiara, Veshau and Liddar at the upper end of the valley, the Sind, Madmati, Erin, and Pohru or Lolab at the lower end of the valley whilst the Kishenganga a large river joins the Jhelum at Domel.

There are also some imported varieties of trout fish. The brown trout (*Salmo-Fario*) is the chief one which has proved a success in all waters of Kashmir above 5,000 feet. This was first introduced by Mr Mitchell. Now trout is sufficiently large in Kashmir. Fourteen pounds trout was caught by a sportsman in 1917 but 3 to 5 pounds are common. There are two important hatcheries at Harwan and Achhabal. The trouts are established in the following streams in Kashmir,

Lidar	Koolgam	Burdwan (Gurais)
Achhabal	Arrah	Sirander

Arput	Burzil	Pohru
Vishan Sar	Kishenganga	Manasbal Lake
Wangat	Erin	Bringhi
Naobug	Madmati	Thrickar

and high lakes on the Northern slopes of Harmukh mountains (The varieties of the indigenous fish found in Kashmir are the following)

1 *Chiroo* is mostly found in lakes but it is also seen in large rivers in spring. They are found as heavy as 26 pounds.

2 *Chush* Similar to Chiroo but it is smaller and remains in the rivers longer. Found at all times of the year.

3 *Ehocht* is found more in rapid waters of the rivers above the valley upto 8,000 feet. It descends to large lakes such as Wular in winter.

4 *Rupport* is a very good Kashmiri fish but scanty. Maximum weight reaches two pounds.

5 Snow trout is extensively found in hill rivers upto 12,000 feet but not seen below 6,000 feet. The European anglers like them very much.

6 Anyur is a catfish. Its small numbers may be easily caught. This is found in most of the upper stream upto and above 12,000 feet.

7 *Tilgrun* is found in all the rivers of Kashmir. Poor people like them very much. Average size is 5 to 6 inches.

8 *Ram Grun* inhabits the lakes mostly but it is scarce.

9 *Tatagarh* is found in lakes and is used mostly to feed trout. Average size is 3 to 5 inches.

10 *Mahseer* is found in Jhelum and its affluents. It is good as a sport and for diet. The chief centres are Shadipur, Baramulla and Domel.

There are three kinds of waters namely (a) trout waters, (b) reserved waters and (c) protected waters. All waters are watched and guarded under the Game Preservation department, Srinagar. The Secretary is invested with powers both executive and financial. License is necessary for each kind of method of fishing. In case of trout, number and size of fish is limited. Under sized fish should be returned to the streams.

The trout flies recommended are the Scotch trout flies, Salmon flies, Jock Scot, Sir Richard Durban, Ranger, Black doctor, Thunder-and-Lightening, Cock of the walk etc.

### General Information

Fishing in the Sheishnag, Aru, Sindh, and Kishenganga are usually poor during 15th May to 15th July due to snow water. Desu is not very good in April. Madmati gives good results. Burdwan contains a large number of small fish. Kishenganga and Vishan Sar Lake have a large number of good fish.

*Country fishing* A license of Rs 10 permits fishing in Kashmir for the full season (full year) from 1st Baisakh to end of Chet with rod and line on reserved waters except in Poonch river. If fishing is required within Srinagar municipal limits such as Dal gate, Canal gate pool etc, Rs 2/- are to be paid extra.

A license of Rs 30 permits fishing with rod and net in reserved waters

The fees of fishing in protected waters for full season (as above) are Rs 4/- with rod, Rs 15 with rod, Walrez, Narchoo and Khashap Khuri jal (net) and Rs 20/- with Khuri jal (net) While the fees of country fishing in Jammu except His Highness Reserves are Rs 10/- per rod for a year (from 14th April), Rs 5 for 10 days and Rs 2 for one day

*Mahseer fishing* Their waters in Kashmir are those of Ningle—the Jhelum river under Sumbal, Sopore and Baramulla bridges, at Rampur Domel and Barsala The license fees are Rs 20/- for full season (14th April to 13th April) The Mahseer license holders are also entitled for country fishing in Kashmir but outside Srinagar Municipal limits

The fees for Mahseer fishing at Tangrot, Jammu province, are Rs 30/- per rod for a year from 1st January, Rs 20/- per rod for 10 days and Rs 3/- per rod for one day

*Trout fishing* The license fees are Rs 200/- per rod for full season (1st April to 30th September), Rs 30/- per rod for one week on weekly waters and Rs 7/- per rod for one day on daily waters

For the list of weekly and daily waters see the Rules of fishing in the appendix The holder of trout season license are entitled for Mahseer and country or course fishing anywhere in Kashmir outside Srinagar Municipal limits within the period of the license

Applications, enquiries, suggestions and complaints etc should be addressed to the Game Warden, Srinagar, Kashmir



## CHAPTER XX

### RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS OF KASHMIR.

The ancient Hindu temples, rather their ruins are perhaps the most remarkable of the existing monuments in India. They are more important than the modern Hindu temples whose towers can not fail to attract the artists' eye. The mosques as well specially Jama Masjid of Srinagar are rare examples of architecture. The ruins are of great interest to the archeologist as they represent different periods in the development of the style.

It is usually admitted by archeologists that the old temples show in their design marked traces of Greek influence. The carving is entirely Hindu in feeling and execution, but in the general plan, there is a simple, impressive dignity of outline, a massive boldness and balance of parts, that is quite unlike any other monument of Hindu architecture. The Kashmiri architecture is characterised by the lofty pyramidal, trefoiled doorways covered by pyramidal pediments and the great width of the inter-colum-nations. According to Sir A. Cunningham, the Kashmir classical style is fundamentally different from any of the style of Hindu architecture.

The ancient architects built their temples solid rather imperishable abodes for their Gods to dwell in. Their work has stood the test of time in spite of Nature's severe aspects such as those of snow, frost

and earthquake, quite common in the valley. But man has been more destructive, as is his wont, than nature. The Mohemadan kings such as Sikander and others are credited with destroying many of these beautiful places. Their material has been used in the walls, plinth etc. of the mosques and houses and embankments of the Jhelum. Historians also assert that many have assumed different forms.

"There are few ruins in India comparable to the massive temples of Balbec or Palmyra, but ancient India has nothing more worthy of its early civilisation than the grand remains in Kashmir, which now feebly excite the wonder of European tourists and the pride of Kashmir Brahmans, the massive, the grotesque, the elegant in architecture may be admired in many parts of India, but nowhere is there to be seen the counterpart of the classically graceful, yet symmetrically massive edifices of Kashmir which though inferior to Palmyra or Persepolis in stateliness are in beauty of position so immensely superior to either."

These remarks are worth quoting of Dr A. N. S. Historians are of opinion that it was after the rise of Buddhism that Hindus began to build temples and the art of stone building was forgotten until it was temporarily revived during the Moghal Kings.

It is usually found that all Kashmir temples have been enclosed by artificial tanks water being conveyed to them either by reservoirs or canals. The object is to propitiate the nags (water spirits) which are usually found being sculptured on the temples such as

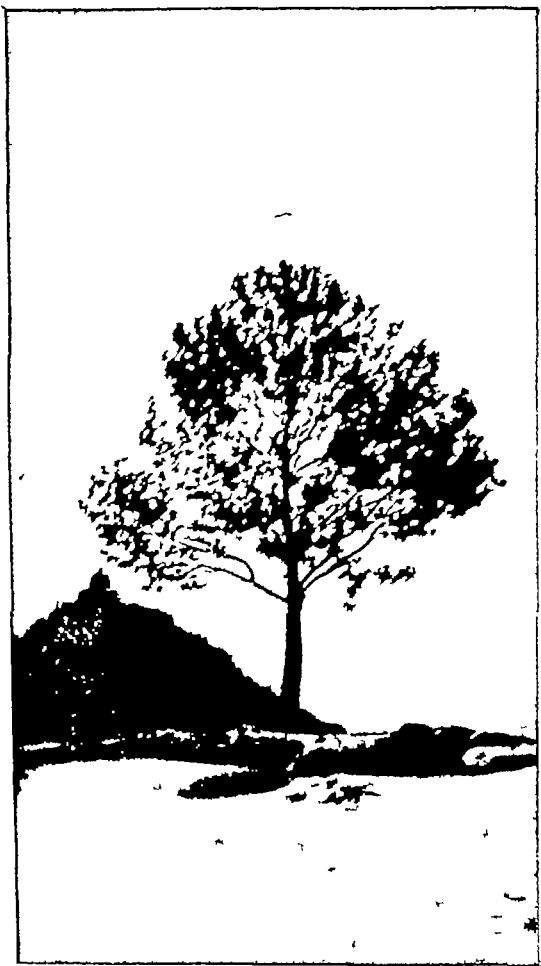
at Bejbchara, (p 127) Shangas, (p. 130) etc where lingams (symbol of Shiva) with snakes are found Abul Fazal has recorded that there were about 700 serpent gods (nags) in his time In most cases it will be noticed that miniature models of the temples were constructed out of a single stone which may still be seen throughout the country *viz* , at Kohil near Payech, near Nali Nar and half way between Shupyion and Ramu

Cunningham, Bishop Cowie and other archeologists are of opinion that all existing temples of Kashmir were dedicated to God's worship The sanctuary or the interior of the cella is almost 10—12 ft square which is generally required by Mahadeo (Shiva) and draining channels present in many temples, confirm their assertions Moreover history too confirms this because Hinduism in Kashmir, from remote times, has been the centre of Shiva worship Dates of erection and names of founders of the temples are in most cases known from Rajtarangni, a great authority and in other cases are deduced from modifications in the style or from tradition and even from scripts connected to ancient chronicles

### TEMPLES.

*Shankeracharya's* This is regarded the earliest temple of Kashmir See page 42

*Bhaumafo's* This is in perfect preservation situated in the lime stone cliff The entrance is carved into an architectural doorway No date of erection is known but is believed to be the earliest perfect specimen of a Kashmir temple dating from



SHANKERACHARYA HILL FROM THE DAL  
G.D.B. SRINAGAR



5th or 6th century A D See page 91 for the rest of the information

*Payech's* The next temple from the point of antiquity is the little temple of Payech being far superior to the remains of similar dimensions in intrinsic beauty and elegance of outline Mr Vigne regarded this the most modern of all Its construction is solid The cella, being 8 ft square, is made up of ten stones only Sculpture over the doorway, though defaced, are regarded to represent Vishnu, Brahma, Shiva and goddess Durga In the interior is a lingam, Shiva See page 127 General Cunningham asserts that this temple was built by King Narendraditya

*At Wangat.* There are two groups of ruins located about 200 yards apart from each other One group consists of eleven buildings and the other of six buildings out of which most of the smaller temples have been buried The bold projection and lofty trefoiled arches are the most striking features. Near them is a sacred spring of Nagbal whence a path leads to Gangabal

*Bhaniyar's* It is in good condition The cella is of large dimensions being  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ft. square in the interior and with walls  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. thick. Its original enclosure 145 ft by 120 ft is still present The colonnade, though much defaced, is still in good condition The temple stands on the Murree-Srinagar road about one and a half mile above Naushehra village The temple is regarded to be probably built in the 5th Century.

There is also another temple of similar character, a few miles further from Bhaniyar on the same road. Its blank walls are the only remains left.

*Martand's* This possesses a choir and nave besides the usual cella. Carving is much more elaborate. There are, in all, 84 columns, a singularly appropriate number in a temple of the sun. Cunningham places this elaborate temple of Martand about 370—503 A.D. but Fergusson does not admit its foundation before the 8th century. There are some people who think it to be built 1,500 years back. For other details, see page 91.

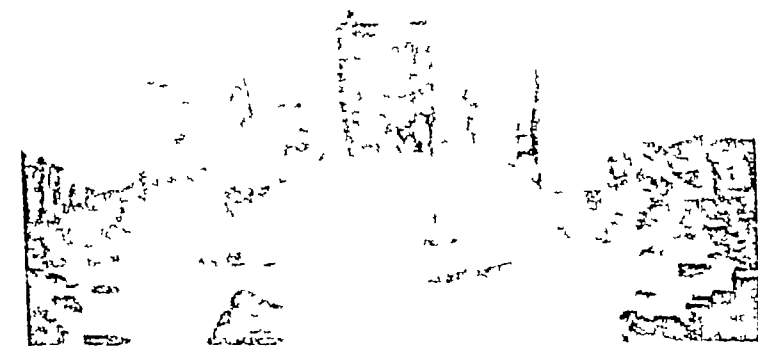
*Avantipur's* See page 86

*At Patan* There are ruins of two very fine temples at Sankarpura (modern Patan) built by Sankar Varma, successor of Avanti Varma, during 883 to 901 A.D. These were dedicated to Mahadev under the titles of Shankara Guresa and Sugandhesvara. The architecture is similar to that of Martand. Some of the carvings are very fine. See page 27 for the route.

*At Wular.* There existed an interesting temple in Lanka Island at Wular Lake. This was quite different in character as compared with other temples and might lead to believe an English Cathedral. Their ruins are now few amid dense forest.

*Pandrethan's* It is 18 ft square with projecting portico on each side. Near their ruins are lying some remains of two lingams, a Buddhist image and rock cut *Chaumakhi* discovered by General Cunningham. See page 60 for other details. Besides the above, there are numerous ruins scattered here and there.

*At Manasbal.* A small temple, 6 ft square, is on the shore of the Manasbal Lake. See page 65.







*Pravaresa* King Pravarsena II built a new city around Hari Parbat and built the temple of Pravaresa of which there are now a few ruins lying between Hari Parbat and Jama Masjid

### Other Shrines.

There was a Temple of Tardamanesa built by Shamdhumat in 50 B.C. near the Habba Kadal, Srinagar (See Stein's Rajtarangni) There was a Shrine of Sureshwari Durga on the crags overlooking the Dal lake A little above it is a sacred spring of Satdhara where a fair is usually held There are ruins of temples at Vicharnag, page 65 Some fragments of the temples of Shiva Amareswara are seen at the village of Amburher, 2 miles beyond Vicharnag. Remains of Amritabhawa (shrine) supposed to be ascribed to Amrit Prabha, Queen of Meghvahna, 22 B C are in the north of the fort hill, Srinagar

There is a pool, probably the ancient pool of Jahava at Zewan, 3 miles beyond Pandrethan There are remains of temples at Khonmoo (p. 127) & at Pampur (p 63) There are sacred springs at Woin and Khru (p 68) There are ruins of a temple of Ladoo whose circular cella is of special interest (p 127)

There is a site of the famous temple of Vishnu Chakradhara over the plateau below Bijbehara This was set on fire by the besiegers in Sussala's time about 1120 A D Asoka is said to have built an enclosure round this temple There is a temple of Mamar, identical with the ancient Mammeshwara near Pahalgam There are sacred places of Amar Nath Sheishnag, Panchtarni etc (page 81)

There is a temple at Bawan (page 91) The springs of Varynag, Vytasta (p. 90), Soond-i-bara and Kookernag (p. 129) have also been regarded as sacred There are some ruins at Andarkot near Sumbal, 5 miles below Shadipur Andarkot was the capital of Jayapida and Kuta Rani, the last Hindu Queen of Kashmir who committed suicide in 1339 A D There is the temple of Fatehgarh built by Ranjit Singh There are other temples at Narastan in Trahal, at Kothair and at Pahalgam also

There are still numerous Hindu temples modified to Mohammedan shape and innumerable ruins which required research

### **Muslim Places of Worship**

*Shah Hamdan's* Kutabuddin demolished the temple of Kaleshwari and built this mosque instead See page 44

*Pathar Masjid.* See page 62.

*Jama Masjid* See page 43

*Hazrat Bal* See page 45

*Ziarat Pir Haji Mohd* It is supposed to be the temple of Sadahawashri built by Pravarsena II The cella with ornamented gateways is still present. Stein suggests this to be the temple of Ranashwara of King Ramaditya

*Ziarat Madin Saheb* It is ascribed to Ranaditya who built here the temple of Raneshwara during 414—474 A D

*Makhdum Sahib's Shrine* See page 45

*Malik Sahib's Tomb* Here the Queen of Kshema Gupta built a temple which is now a tomb

*Other places* See page 61 and 62

## CHAPTER XXI

### ARTS AND CRAFTS OF KASHMIR

Kashmir had once remarkable artistic crafts and nothing else of ancient handiwork has survived due to climatic conditions except the ruins of the Hindu temples, particularly, those of Martand and Avantipur (See page 254) dating from the 8th century and the Buddhist stuppas which are now the living examples testifying to a certain taste and skill in architecture and stone carving. The above temples show architectural pretensions and their style minus architrave is Greek Doric. The coffering of the semicircular vault of the cella at Martand temple is interesting and reminds us of the Palmyra buildings and arches by the Romans. The elaborate ornamentations on the walls, when visible, are of great interest. The red pottery—huge jars—unearthed at Avantipur and Martand impress by their bulk (See the chapter on "Religious buildings of Kashmir").

The decorative art of Kashmir is manifold. The historians are of opinion that there is little indigenous to Kashmir and people have borrowed much from foreigners and adopted it to their special needs. This assertion is confirmed by the presence of Persian and Arab origins found in all arts. And Zam-ul-Abidin is believed to have called craftsmen from foreign lands for decorating and building purposes in the 15th century A.D. and the Kashmir people had learned

from them. The *Kumangars* are one of the examples of the foreigner who still maintain their quality of art while in many other cases intermarriage has weakened the strain

*Textiles.* The weaving of beautiful fabric for clothing and general use is an established industry in Kashmir from remote times. The manufacture of the celebrated shawls renowned all over the world for their proverbial beauty, excellence and artistic quality, now a neglected industry, is a wonderful example of the figure weaver's art and evokes admiration of the marvellous skill and taste. Persia and adjacent countries, the original markets of the shawls, still purchase them to this day. Undoubtedly, the pashmina is unsurpassed in warmth giving quality and durability and itself is cosy in texture and dainty and smooth to the touch.

Kashmir plain cloths of wool (*pattu*) and tweeds made from especially spun yarn from the famous wool of Kashmir and woven into marvellous smart designs in splendid harmony of hues are ideal material for heavy serviceable overcoats and suits for maximum warmth at minimum price.

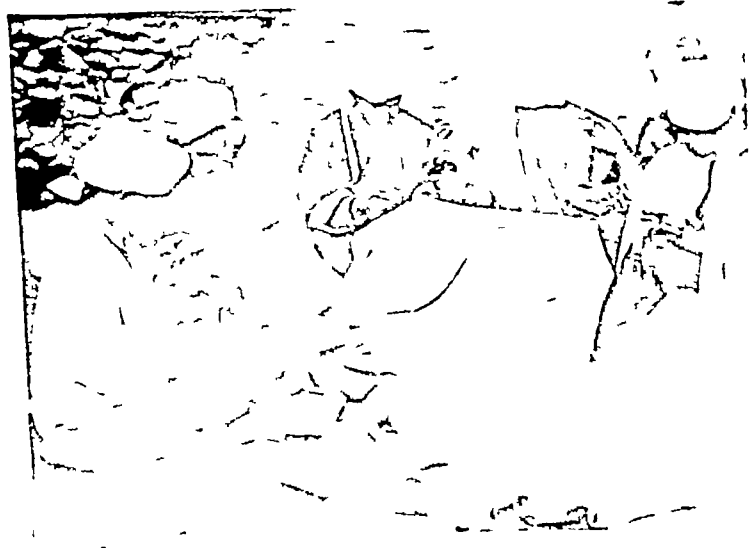
The Kashmir silk and silken articles manufactured under primitive methods were one of the arts and industries of India which were highly praised in the world particularly in Europe but their demand has much diminished due to the change of the time. However, the silk industry has been revived since after 1869—70 but truly speaking, it was after 1904 when the industry largely flourished by the energetic



RCA

A VILLAGE GROUP

KASHMIR



ULPH

HANDICRAFT

KASHMIR



work of Sir Thomas Wardle who imported seeds from Italy

The Kashmir embroidered silk loose garments (sarees) and other silken articles with enchanting designs are much appreciated in the Indian markets Also see page 39

*Embroidery* Very fine examples of the embroiderer's craft such as Moghul patterns on coats, garments, shawls etc. are no longer done (These may be seen in various museums in India) As a matter of fact, the cheaper demand of embroidered articles has extinguished the fine craftsmanship of the earlier days Embroidery done at present is, too, quite satisfactory in a popular sense Persia, the original market of shawls still consumes a great number of them.

Embroidery, nowadays, is extensively done on floor cloth (*numdah* and *gabbas*), couch coverings, cushions, covers, silk-garments etc Pattu patchwork (*gabba*) industry is much carried on at Anantnag under the principle of that of the 'Boule' work

*Papler-Machie.* It is a decorative art on paper The paper pulp is, by several processes, moulded into innumerable shape of articles such as dishes, boxes, flower pots etc. Various types of floral schemes are artistically developed on the articles which look very grand and are praiseworthy

This art is called Kumangiri (bow and arrow) as it is said to have taken its origin from the painted bows and arrows of the old Persian warriors. This



industry is still in the hands of the descendents of the original Persian craftsmen who live, today, in Kumangarpura at Srinagar. They have been producing very fine quality of work but buyer's inclination to cheapness is responsible for lowering the standard of work.

***Carpets*** Carpet weaving is one of the principal industries of Kashmir and has recently much developed. Their patterns, styles, designs, quality etc are very good and sufficient quantity of the carpets is exported to foreign lands. The manufacture of the antique-carpets and carpets of every quality is now carried on a large scale by the eminent factories of Messrs Hadow's, Mitchel's, Kailas's and others. They deserve credit for reviving the manufacture of Indo-Persian Carpets for the finest quality in the world, specially Persian Carpets of the 16th and 17th Centuries. They too have added most modern styles to the manufacture of carpets and rugs which undoubtedly deserve praise.

***Wood-Carving*** It is an ancient craft of the country and fine examples of architectural work can still be seen in some of the older mosques. The carver is extremely skilful both in design and execution and produces elaborate work.

***Jewellery*** The stone-jewellery such as making of ear ornaments, elaborate chains for women, studs, buttons and armlets for men etc are well known. Their designs are old but good. Like the Grecian gold work, most of the ornamental work is pressed in metal moulds. Their forms and patterns are undoubtedly interesting.

*Silver-work.* The silver-smiths are good craftsmen and produce elaborate designs on multifarious articles

*Copper-work* The copper-smiths, too, are good craftsmen but they are wholly concerned in the manufacture of antiques, but their Lhasa style is alright and Persian inscriptions are praiseworthy.

*Paper-making.* Since remote times, birch bark has been used for writing sacred Sanskrit books. The paper-making in Kashmir began probably in the 15th Century under the rule of Zain-ul-Abdin. The process of making is unaltered and no energetic efforts are being made to improve the quality

*Match-Industry.* This is a recently developed industry located at Baramulla and was started by Raja Dewan Sir Daya Kishan Kaul under the patronage of the Kashmir Government in 1927. The matches are made out of the local poplar and willow trees. The daily out-turn is 175 gross of match-boxes and the factory is run by electric power.

There are Technical Institutes in Srinagar and Jammu the object of which is to teach the arts and crafts of Kashmir, see page 40

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## CHAPTER XXII

### KASHMIR FRUITS & VEGETABLES.

Kashmir is well known for her fruits renowned for their juiciness, flavour and durability as well as for green vegetables which are produced in abundance. In no land situated so high in altitude in the world is such a variety of fruits grown and green vegetables produced. Apart from the uniqueness of Kashmir in other respects, she is unique in this respect also. From the table which is appended for information, the visitors will surely appreciate that the remark about its uniqueness is true. Therefore it is not scenery alone that draws into this land of eternal beauty the visitors from lands far and wide.

Fresh fruits and vegetables act as a great agency of body builders and blood purifiers. A variety of pears, the local name for which is *Baggu Gosha*, is considered to be one of the best fruits of the land. This fruit is very delicate and sweet. Its flavour is remarkable. This variety is not produced anywhere in India, not even in Asia. Apples are the predominating fruit of Kashmir. There are more than 100 varieties of apples. Grapes are produced in abundance but they are more suitable for wine than for table purposes. The wine is not exported from Kashmir under the orders of the Government.

**Fruits.**

Fruits	When available
Cherries, Strawberries Mulberries	May.
Apricots, Green almonds	June
Apricots, Pears, Peaches, Plums, Apples (early), Green almonds.	July.
Pears, Peaches, Apples, Grapes (wine and table), Pomegranates, Green walnuts and Dry almonds	August.
Pears, Apples, Grapes, Pomegranates	September.
Pears, Apples, Chestnuts	October
Apples and Pears	November.

**Vegetables**

The important vegetables of cold climates of Europe and other places are grown here in plenty. Like other hill stations vegetables are not brought from the plains, and sold at high prices while they are already stale. In Kashmir at all times of the season quite fresh vegetables can be had and in condition that not a bit of their food value has been impaired. Following is a list of important vegetables —

Vegetables			When available.
Artichoke	Asparagus	Bhindi	} May to November.
Beet	Bhaji	Carrot	
Brinjal	Karam	Celery	
Cabbage	Ostahak	Lettuce	
Knol-khol	Radish	Peas	
Leek	Spinach	Rhubarb	
Onion	Tomato	Potato	
Parsnip	Melons	Etc.	
Turnip	Beans	Etc.	

## CHAPTER XXIII

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### (A) Visitors and Customs.

All articles imported into the Kashmir and Jammu State except those in actual use and brought by visitors or sent ahead or following them within a reasonable time are subject to duty. Articles imported in customs-house bond are free and in that case the Indian Customs duty is credited to the State. The following articles in use are passed free as personal luggage —

(1) Cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery in small quantities, (2) Bedding including rugs and blankets, (3) Apparel including hats and boots; (4) Walking sticks, umbrellas and implements for games, (5) Hand bags, toilet requisites, spectacles, jewellery according to the rank of the importer, (6) A medicine chest for household use, camera with a few plates, thermos flask, field glasses, (7) Smoking pipes, cigars and cigarettes up to 100 and other tobacco not exceeding one pound in weight, (8) A few toys, an infant's bath or child's cot or a camp bath, a perambulator or go cart, (9) A bottle of wine, spirit, and perfumery opened, 5 tolas of charas, 3 tolas of opium, a bottle of methylated spirit, (10) A bicycle, (11) A saddle and bridle, (12) A small folding table, (13) A sewing machine and a type writer in actual use, (14) Stationery in small quantities, (15) Mounted stamps, scrap photo or post card albums, (16) A

fitted work basket, (17) Musical instruments such as a pair of tablas, harmonium, violin, a gramophone with 100 records, a guitar etc (18) Provisions such as ghee, flour etc in reasonable quantities according to the position and number of the members, (19) Two guns, two rifles, a revolver or pistol, 500 cartridges. See 'Visitors and Arms' also. (20) Dowry articles brought after marriage by bridegroom's party (resident of the State) or brought by bridegroom's party (residing outside the State) to present to the bride on her marriage *lagn batra* or brought by bride's relatives on her mother's side (residing outside the State) to present as *Nanki Chhak* (21) Radio sets, carpets, tents, canoes, silver wares and boats are exempted from payment of customs duty if they are returned within 6 months

In case a visitor intends to set up a house in the State for several seasons and customs department is satisfied, no duty will be charged on the articles of cooking worth Rs 100, cutlery of Rs 150, glass and china of Rs 200, household linen of Rs 400, pictures of Rs 60, silver and plated wares of Rs 600

### Export

No duty is charged on the articles mentioned here and are passed as personal luggage — Ghee  $\frac{1}{2}$  seer per head, fruits 5 seers per head, potatoes 3 seers per head, provision 4 seers per head

The following articles when exported from the State of Jammu and Kashmir are subject to duty at the mentioned rates per maund — Ghee Rs 4/8/0, Fruits fresh and dried excluding almonds -/8

Rs 2/ , potatoes 18/-. Grain and pulse -14/-, Oilseeds -18/ , Hides and skins Rs 2/- Wool including pusham Rs 5/-.

### **(B) Visitors and Arms.**

Visitors carrying arms with a British Indian licence have to pay fees at the first custom post of entry into the State according to the nature of ammunition subject to the following rules and conditions

(1) A fee of Re 1/- for a smooth bore gun, Rs 2/- for a rifle and Rs. 3/- for a pistol or revolver is charged (2) Licence of arms should necessarily be accompanied otherwise arms will be detained at the customs post (3) The officer in charge of the customs post will give a receipt of the weapon detained with all particulars and report the matter to the Govt for orders On hearing from the Govt this will be delivered or deposited at such other place as may be directed On production of the licence and payment of fee chargeable, the weapon will be delivered at any time (4) The facts of detention of such weapons are at once reported to the Inspector General of Police and the Director, Visitors Bureau (5) In case weapons remain unclaimed within 6 months they are forfeited to H H Govt and are disposed of (6) All arms imported are registered at the customs post offices and a copy of the same is given to the holder of the arms (7) The license thus granted is valid for a year and requires renewal after the expiry of the period (8) If the license is in the name of more than one person, each will be charged as if they possess separate license subject to fees specified under item No 1.

**(C) Tolls and Taxes.**

**Tolls** The road tolls are payable at Domel and Ramban Customs Posts (H.H. Maharaja's Territory) at the following rates. Besides these, eight annas and six annas are charged per passenger travelling by motor or lorry at Kohala and Satramile (17th mile) (British territory) respectively.

Motor Car carrying not more than 3 passengers excluding chauffeur	7	8	0
Motor Cycle with side Car	3	12	0
Motor Cycle	2	4	0
Trailer attached to motor vehicle	4	8	0
One ton or less than one ton lorry with pneumatic tyres	15	0	0
One ton or less than one ton lorry with solid tyres	25	0	0
One and a half ton lorry with pneumatic tyres	22	0	0
" " " per passenger	1	12	0
" " " with solid tyres	35	0	0
Motor or steam tractor	40	0	0
Vehicle drawn by 2 ponies or 2 mules	5	0	0
Every additional pony or mule over 2	2	0	0
Vehicle drawn by one pony or mule	3	0	0
Vehicle drawn by one or 2 bullocks	8	0	0
Every additional bullock over 2	2	0	0
Bicycle	0	10	0
Bullock, buffalo, pony or mule	0	8	0
Donkey	0	4	0
Camel	1	0	0

**Remarks** Motor or steam vehicles are charged the same tolls if working or not by their own power and, similarly, conveyances not drawn by animals will be charged the same rates.

**Taxes** All Motor Cars and Motor Cycles (but not Motor Lorries) with the exceptions of the vehicles owned by H.H. ruling family, the Military department, the Resident in Kashmir, State guests and persons exempted by the Minister-in-waiting, Traffic Inspectors and Superintendents are taxed subject to the following conditions and rates.—



(1) Taxes are taken in the beginning of each calendar year for the whole year or in instalments (a facility for visitors) as thus, —

Motor Cars	Motor Cycles
Rs 60 per annum	Rs 12 per annum
Rs 35 for 6 months	Rs 7 for 6 months
Rs 20 for 3 months	Rs 4 for 3 months

(2) Motor Cars and Motor Cycles entering the State from outside have to pay minimum quarterly charges and the same are collected at the Road Toll Posts. The whole amount of the charges are refunded if the Motor Car or Cycle crosses the Toll Posts within 15 days. When they remain for over 3 months, further quarterly tax is charged and is recovered by the Customs Department. A copy of such taxes is sent to each customs post for record and future collection. It is essential and convenient that receipt of the last payment should be kept and produced when demanded.

#### (D) Rules of Dak Bungalows over Jhelum Valley and Banihal Cart Roads.

All travellers can stay in a dak bungalow. They have to pay Re 1/- per head for every 24 hours or part thereof and Re 2/- per head for subsequent 24 hours after 72 hours. Only eight annas are charged if the traveller does not remain for more than 3 hours. Two or more persons occupying the same room will be charged for each person as if they occupy separate rooms. Children under 12 years are not charged anything. European women travellers with ladies are charged half the rates.

(2) Travellers receive accomodation according to priority of arrival. In case of crowding, two or more persons as the case may be will be equally distributed to each room (3) Everybody's claim is to take shelter for 24 hours but has to leave it after that period if another traveller requires shelter (4) A fee of eight annas is charged for each tent pitched in that bungalow compound A compound is within 50 yards from the walls of the bungalow A fee of two annas is charged for every vehicle, dandy, horse, tent, etc, left in the bungalow or its premises after the departure of the owner (5) Khansama of the dak bungalow will provide food, European stores, liquors, etc, as per tarrif below Provisions can be purchased form the Baniah of the stage or Khansama at the rates affixed in the dak-bungalow (6) Payments should be made daily to the Khansama in charge of the bungalow Complaints should be sent to the Divisional Engineer concerned Extra beds, when availabe, will be supplied by the Khansama The food tariff is as under —

Per head charges		Per head charges	
Chhota Hazri		Breakfast	1 4 0
with toast	0 6 0	Lunch cold	1 0 0
"    "    with 2 eggs	0 8 0	Lunch hot	1 4 0
Cup of tea with toast	0 6 0	Dinner	2 0 0
Cup of tea	0 3 0	Afternoon tea	0 6 0
Cup of tea with jam	0 8 0		

Sundries—Bath-/3/-, Firewood (20 seers) -/4/-, Table lamp -/3/-, Hurricane lantern -/2/- soda or lemonade per bottle -/2/-, loaf of bread -/2/- Ordinary breakfast or lunch consists of two dishes and dinner of three with cheese and pudding

### (E) Necessary Hints

*When to go.* Kashmir is always charming, it does not matter when you go. If a stay of five or six months is intended, May is the best time for the journey up and return should be about the first week of November after the saffron bloom. If less time is at hand, it is recommended to visit any time during 15th August and 15th October.

*What road to take,* Rawalpindi route is convenient but Jammu route is picturesque. It is suggested that you should go up by one and come back by the other. While going by Rawalpindi route, you can go by river journey from Baramulla onwards and can visit Manasbal, Khirbhawan, Ganderbal, Wular *en route*. It takes about three days more.

*Where to stay* See page 31. Besides the hotels, houseboats, etc., on page 31, there are boarding houses run by (1) Mrs Davis, (2) Mrs Amesbury, (3) Mrs Gatmell and (4) Miss E O Connor. For an alteration or addition to the boarding houses, Director Visitor's Bureau should be asked.

*Supplies* Milk, eggs and fowls are plentiful in Kashmir. Ghee, common flour etc., are available at all stages. There are prices of commodities affixed at the rest houses and dak/bungalows, which should be seen before payment is made. European stores are available at Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

*Transport* Car and buses are the principal means of transport on the Murree, Banihal and Muzaffarabad routes and also for some of the places of interest in the Happy Vale of Kashmir. When you

book a seat in a car or lorry you are advised to get a receipt from the company stating therein clearly the amount of the fare including all road-tolls or otherwise. Return passage should necessarily be arranged with only reliable companies. All booking should be done direct with the companies and not with touts.

For places in Ladakh, Gilgit, or interior Kashmir ponies and coolies are necessary. They should always be arranged at the starting stage through some reliable source. At many places, there are contractors appointed by the government.

*Equipment* Warm clothing is necessary. A blue veil and tinted spectacles are helpful when crossing snow. On rainy days, boots are troublesome and should be replaced by grass sandals used by the coolies on such occasions. They may be worn over special cloth socks. Over snows, well-nailed ammunition boots are recommended.

*Luggage* 60 lbs. of luggage is allowed free per seat in a car and 40 lbs. per seat in a lorry or bus. Extra luggage is despatched by a lorry or bus and charged approximately @ Rs 4/- per maund on Rawalpindi route and Rs 3/8/- per maund on Jammu route. Through luggage to Srinagar or Gulmarg can be booked through the agents of the Motor companies. Messrs Radha Kishan & Sons are authorised agents of the N W Railways.

*Dak bungalows* See page 268

*Forest Rest House.* See the appendix.

*Banks* The banks in Srinagar are Lloyd's Bank Ltd., The Imperial Bank of India, The Punjab

National Bank, The Punjab and Kashmir Bank, The Muslim Bank of India

*Enterprises in Srinagar* Besides the Srinagar Club, Cinemas and State Exhibition etc., as on page 48 and 49, there are the Amar Singh Club, Swimming arrangements in Dal and Nagin Lakes, Ski Club (winter sports in Gulmarg, see Gulmarg)

*Visitors are Advised .—*

- (a) To get receipts for all payments, whether the rent of a boat, hire of a car or any other agreement. (All terms should be in writing)
- (b) To clear all accounts before leaving Kashmir
- (c) To secure pure drinking water, milk and butter  
River water should not be used Water should firstly be boiled for drinking and washing utensils Milk should be boiled in all cases Butter should be purchased from a reliable dairy.
- (d) To make payments personally as far as possible
- (e) To get servants, crew and crew's family medically examined as a safeguard against infection from contagious diseases Males and females should be sent to the State Hospital and Zenana Hospital (of H H's Government) respectively. For each individual Rs 2/- are charged with a maximum of Rs 7/ for each establishment The establishment means all the servants or menials engaged by one master.
- (f) To employ registered servants Servants who are not registered should be brought before the Director, Visitors Bureau for registration

*Enquiries* Enquiries regarding transport coolies, boats, carriage and any other matter should be made at the office of the Director, Visitors' Bureau The Bund, Srinagar Also any complaint against anybody or anything in Kashmir should be done here The Director is a Govt official appointed by the Govt. for every possible assistance to the visitors

*Ry Concessions* Through tickets upto Srinagar are issued from all big stations on the Indian Railways. They are valid for 6 months from the date of issue or upto 30th Nov whichever is earlier. The Agent, N W Ry, Lahore, or the station concerned should be asked for further information.

*Fares to Srinagar* There are no fixed rates of fare for either passenger or luggage. They fluctuate according to the demand in the market viz, the fares vary for up journey from Rs 6 to 10 per seat and Rs 20 to 50 for full car in September, to Rs 15 to 30 per seat and Rs. 60 to 80 for full car during March and May, and for down journey from Rs 20 to 30 per seat and Rs 60 to 80 for full car in September to Rs 7 to 15 per seat and Rs 25 to Rs 45 for full car during March and May. Fares are generally exclusive of road toll charges unless agreed to the contrary. The luggage rates vary from Rs 5 per md to 2/8/- and below.

*Motorists.* Motorists are warned that they should not exceed the speed above 20 miles per hour over unmettled roads and should not use them immediately after rains as they become slippery and unserviceable.

*Petrol Pumps* They are at Rawalpindi, Murree, Kohala, Domel, Uri and Baramulla on the Rawalpindi-Srinagar route, and at Udampur, Batote, Banihal and Bijbehara on the Jammu-Srinagar route and at Abbotabad and Manshra on the Abbotabad route.

*Baggage* It should not be awkward in shape nor too heavy as they are inconvenient in wet slippery weather near the passes.

*Servants' pay* The monthly wages of first class cooks, bearer khit, bhisti and sweeper are Rs 40, Rs 30, Rs 15 and Rs 15 respectively while those of fair ones are Rs. 25, Rs. 20, Rs. 13 and Rs. 13 respectively.

## CHAPTER XXIV MISCELLANEOUS ROUTES.

### Simla to Kashmir.

The direct route is Simla to Kailung (as below) and thence Kailung to Kashmir (page 188) There are also other routes, (a) Simla to Bajaora (11 marches), Bajaora to Baij Nath (16 marches), Baij Nath to Chamba (24 marches) and Chamba to Kashmir (page 149). (b) Simla to Bajaora, (Kulu valley) Rohtang Pass, Lahaul to Ating (page 189, 187) and then to Kashmir *via* Kishtwar (page 131) (37 marches or 500 miles), (c) from Kalka *via* Suket and Palampur to Bhadarwah, etc.

### Simla to Leh.

The popular route is Simla to Kulu and Kulu to Kailung as described below

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Simla, E, F G, W, S, T, PO, TO, hotels etc Phagu, 8,167 ft	12	Summer headquarter of the Viceroy of India. Rd with ups and downs. DB, PO, Telephone. Rd as above
Theog, 7,453 ft	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	DB, PO Rd fair
Matiana, 7,897 ft	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	DB, PO Rd fair Ascend Narkanda
Narkanda, 9,192 ft	11	DB, PO, TO, Rd almost descending
Luri, 2,600 ft	13	DB Ascend to Ani
Ani, 4,100 ft	12	Salvation army mission, Rd steep ascending
PO RH		
Khanag 8,300 ft	9	RH Rd fair
Shoja, 8,800 ft	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	RH Cross Jalori Pass
Banjar Kundan, 5,000 ft.	10	RH PO, Dispy, Tehsil Rd easy descending
Larji, 3,160 ft	11	RH Rd fair
Bajaura, 3,350 ft.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	DB, PO, TO Rd ascending
Kulu (Sultanpur), 4,086 ft	9	Tehsil, Hospital, PO TO, Rd fair
Katraia, 4,800 ft	12	DB, PO Rd ascending
Manali, 6,200 ft	11	RH PO Rd ascending.
Kothi, 8,500 ft	7	" " " "

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Koksar, 10,431 ft	12½	RH Rd rough Cross Rohtang Pass 13,040.
Siasu, 10,153 ft	9½	RH Rd fair
Gondla 10,282 ft	7½	" " "
Kailung, 10,383 ft	10½	See page 177
To Leh		See page 177

*Remarks* There is also another Route as thus — Simla to Dankhar (Spiti) 182 miles and thence route vide page 181

## POONCH ROUTES

### Rawalpindi to Poonch

This route is commonly in vogue

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Rawalpindi See page 25		Leave Grand Trunk Rd at m 6 to join cart Rd
Sihala, 1,500 ft	11	Rly Stn Rd rough cross Soan R, m 11
F, F, G, W, S, PO TO Kohuta, 2,020 ft	12	Village PO Dispy Rd good Pass Manland, m 2
E, F, G, W, S, T, RH, C		
Panjar, 2,750 ft	10	Village Descend Pass Sun Cross Jhelum Br m 6 for Poonch State
F, F, G, * W, * FRH		
Lachhman Pattan, 1,590 ft F, F, G, W, S, *	10	Village Rd undulating Pass Bhatea, m 3
T * RH		
Palandri, 4,600 ft	14	Village, Rd undulating Pass Chhalhar, (Nangapir slopes)
E, F, G, W, S, T, RH, Dispy		
Helan, 5,560 ft	17	Village Rd fair Pass Bhandini, m 8
E, (F, G, W, S, T) *		
Hajira, 3,400 ft	11	Village Pass Sehra m 5
E, F, G, W, P O, RH, S, * T, *		Cross Br over Poonch R, m 6½
Punch 3,300 ft	15	See page 144



## Jammu to Poonch

All the three routes described below are good and open throughout the year The route *via* Kotli is the best

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Jammu, 1 000 ft See page 28		Rd good along Ranbir Canal Cross Chenab at Akhnur
Akhnur, 1,090 ft E,F,G,W S,T, RH, C, PO TO Dispy	18	Small town, Fort, Rd undulating by Kappa gall
Chauki Chauhra, 2,250 E,F,G,W,S *	19	Cross Kali Dhar Rd undulating Cross Tawi
Thandapani, 1,900 ft E,F,G,W,S,T, RH, C	12	Village Rd fair Pass Siot, Dandesar Cross Tawi, m 16
Naoshera, 1,820 ft E,F,G W,S, RH C, PO	17	Small town, Fort Coolies available Rd good
Lardka, 2,900 ft E,F,G,W,S,*T,*	12	Hamlet Rd good Pass Seri po, m 7
Khulratta, 2,570 ft E,F,G W,S,T, PO	11	Village Rd good. Pass Danna
Kotli, 2,000 ft	16	} See page 277
Sehra	14	
Poonch	17	
Jammu to Thandapani	48	} See above Rd fair
Dharmas, 2,100 ft E,F,G W S,T,C, P O.	10	Village Rd fair
Slal Sui, 2,650 ft E,F,G,W,S,C,	11	Village Coolies available Ascend by Gesar gala Descend to Tawi R
Rajaori, 3,030 ft. E,F,G,W,S,T,C,RH, PO	16	Small town Cross several streams Pass Fatehpur
Thanamandi.	14	See page, 140
Suran	16	" " 142
Poonch	14	" , 143
Jammu to Rajaori (Rampur).	80	} See above.
Dheri, 4,000 ft E,F,G,W,S,*T *	14	Village Rd by Bhimbar gali, 5,415 ft po at Mendhar, m 10

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Mankot, 3,000 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	16	Village, Fort Rd along Mendhar & Poonch R.
Ban, 2,600 ft E, W, (S, T, F, G) *	11	Village Cross Suran
Poonch	11	See page 144

### Jhelum to Poonch

This is a popular and easy route. One can motor up to Mirpur *via* Serai Alamgir

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Jhelum, 764 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, P O TO, DB, hotels, Rly		Cantonment Rd fair, Cross Gatalian ferry
Gatalian, 808 ft E W	10	Hamlet Cross Bala pass 1,650 ft
Mirpur, 1,180 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, P O Dispy	13	Small town Rd fair, but stony
Chaomukh, 1,120 ft E, F, G, W, S, T * P O	10	Village Rd fair Recross Poonch R
Rajdhan, 1,650 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	9	Village Rd rough Cross Mamhuli, m 13
Gulpur, 1,850 ft E, F, G, W	15	Hamlet Rd fair through Poonch valley
Kotli, 2,000 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, RH, P O Dispy	10	Town, Fort Rd as above Pass Phagwari, m 4
Sehra, 2,630 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, RH	14	Village Rd rough Meet route (p 275) at Br over Poonch R
Poonch, 3,300 ft	17	See page 144

### Poonch to Srinagar. *Via* Toshmaidan,

This route is regarded as the direct one. Toshmaidan Pass is fit for pack animals and remains open from June to November.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Poonch See page 144		Rd good up Suran and Mandi valley Pass Mandi, m 13
Rajpur, 4,700 ft E, W, (S, T, F, G) *	14	Village Pass Loran (Lohara)
Sultanpathar, 8,100 ft E, F, G, W	12	Hamlet Ascend Kulian spur Cross Chinamarg gali or Toshmaidan pass, 13,430 ft m 8
Toshmaidan 10,200 ft E, F, G, W	16	Grazing ground Descend to Drang, m 5
Watrahel, 6,280 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	18	Village Rd good
Srinagar	14	See page 36

## Poonch to Srinagar

### Via Ferozpur

This route is direct and popular but often difficult for pack animals and subject to avalanches in spring This remains open from June to Nov

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Poonch, see page 144		Rd fair through Suran and Mandi valleys
Mandi, 4,500 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	13	Summer residence of the Raja of Poonch Rd fair
Gagrian, 6,300 ft E, F, G, W, S, T *	10	Village Cross Chor Panjal or Ferozpur Pass, 13,010 ft
Kantarnag 13,100 ft E, G, W, F *	12	Lake Rd down Palats valley
Tangmarg, 7,100 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, DB, PO	11	Motor Rd terminus towards Gulmarg from Srinagar
Magam, 5,250 ft as above	9½	Village Motor Rd Join Srinagar Baramula Rd m 6
Srinagar	14½	See page 36

**Remarks** For other routes already described, see pages 142, 145 and 120-121

### Jammu to Srinagar *via* Budil.

The first few stages are rough and unpassable for pack animals. The Budil Pass remains closed from December to May due to snow. You may omit halt at Phagoli and reach Budil.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Jammu		See page 28
Akhnur	18	" " 276
Chauki Chauhra, see page 276	19	"Cross" Kali Dhar range Descend to Dhabu
Paoni, 2 050 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, * PO	14	Village Good garden Ascend Chiligala, 4,816 ft and descend
Gura, 2,700 ft E, (F, G, W, S, T)*	9	Village Track rough
Narkot, 4 000 ft E, F, G, W, S, * T *	10	Village Steep ascend to South of Chorusira Descend to Phagoli
Phagoli 5,000 ft E, F, G, W	11	Hamlet Cross Ans R near Kewal
Budil 5 890 ft F, T, G, W, S, T, PO	5	Village, Fort Track up Budil valley Pass Raj Nagar, m 2 Ascend Dobata
Andrachhi, 10,700 ft E, F, G, W	10	Hamlet Ascend Budil Pir or Sedau Pass, 13,989 ft Descend easy
Harseni Tower	14	Rock shelter Track fair Cross Tsurugul Pass, 9,407 ft Descend to Sedau, m 6
Shupiyan, 6 720 ft	11	Join route Page 138

### Jammu to Srinagar *via* Riasi and Gulabgarh.

This route is less used since the Banihal route has become popular. This was formerly well kept.

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Jammu, 1,000 ft See page 28		Rd good Pass Nagrota PO m 7, Littaryari, m 9 Ascend
Dung, 1,520 ft E, F, G, W	18	Village Rd fair

Stage.	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Kanjli, 1,400 ft. E, F, G, W	7	Village Rd fair Pass Seri, m 3 Deri, m 4
Riasi, 1,700 ft E, F, G, W S, T, PO TO, RH, C, Dispy	11	Town, fort Rd undulating Pass Bida, m 4 Descend to Chenab Br
Arnas, 2,000 ft E, F, G, W S, T	15	Village Rd undulating through woods
Mhor 4,700 ft E, F, G, W, S *	12	Village Rd diverts up towards Batoi N
Angrala, 5,500 ft E, F, G, W, S *	14	Village Track rough Cross Gulabgarh N
Gulabgarh, 6,700 ft E, F, G, W	9	Village Steep ascent to Didam gali, 12,501 ft Descend
Gugalmarg, 10,300 ft E, F, G, W	11	Hamlet Track down Zaji N Ascend
Manzgam, 6 850 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	11	Village Rd good Cross Veshau R at Rishnagar Pass Jamnagar and Mimandar
Shupiyon, 6,720 ft	9	Join route vide Page 138

### Jammu to Srinagar

#### Via Ram Nagar and Bhadarwah

This route is passable by pack animals in summer but practicable for coolies in winter onwards Korta

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Jammu, see page 28		Rd up Tawi valley
Parkalta, 1,150 ft E, F, G, W, S T	10	Village Gradual ascent Rd fair
Suruin Sar, 2,000 ft E, F, G, W, S, T *	9	Lake, Village Rd fair
Chiani, 2,000 ft E, F, G, W, S, T	12	Village Ascend to Suloh Khad
Ram Nagar, 2,700 ft E, F, G, W, S, T, PO, TO, RH, C	13	Town, Fort Dispy Rd fair up the valley.
Korta, E, F, G, W, S, T *	9	Village Rd up Height 8,825 ft Descend Cross Tawi R
Dudu, 6,450 ft as above	15	Village Rd up the Tawi valley
Gunoduru, 10,170 ft E, F, G, W	12	Ascend Nakka gali, 1,600ft and descend
Bhadarwah	11	See page 137 & 131

## Jammu to Kashmir *Via* Kishtwar

Jammu to Batote	see page	28
Batote to Kishtwar	" "	134
Kishtwar to Kashmir	" "	131

## Gurais to Kargil *Via* Tilel and Dras

There are several routes between Kargil and Gurais but the following one is practicable for pack animals throughout

Stage	Inter miles	Nature of journey to next stage
Gurais, 7,940 ft See page 223		Leave Gilgit Rd after Chorvan Ascend Achhu Chhish gali, 11,455 ft and descend
Kashpat 8,450 ft E F G W S * T *	13	Village Pass Purana Tilel
Badogam, 8,950 ft E F G, V S T	8½	Village Rd good
Eadoab, 9,250 ft E F G W S T	9½	Village Rd good along the river
Abdullun, 9,500 ft E F, G, W	8	Village Ascend Kaobel gali, 13,568 ft m 10 and descend
Koradgai, E, F, G W	16	Track through valley
Bhutkolan as above	12	Hamlet Track through narrow valley and open be, ond Mushk
Dras 10,144 ft	16	See page 159 onwards

## Riasi to Udhampur

*Riasi to Katra, 4 hours march* Cross several nullahs Track is up and down At Katra pilgrimage to Trika Devi takes place in summer

*Katra to Udhampur, 22 miles* The march is easy except the crossing of the Jhajar Khad

## Kathua to Basohli

*Kathua to Basantpur, easy march* Road is undulating Pass Lakhampur Fort.

*Basantpur to Basohli, 2nd march.* undulating. Pass Tham.

## APPENDIX

### Limits of Travel in the direction of Gilgit and Ladakh

(1) Gurais in the direction of Gilgit and Kargil in the direction of Ladakh are limits beyond which no visitor should go unless he has a pass issued by the Resident in Kashmir or by the Game Warden

(2) No visitor is allowed to cross frontiers of Kashmir territory, except those contiguous with British India without a special permit from the Govt of India, or to enter the Gilgit Agency including Chilas without a permit from the Resident in Kashmir Travellers proceeding to Leh are to certify that they will not cross frontier into Tibet or Chinese Turkestan

(3) Travellers proceeding to Leh from Simla and Kangra districts are informed that they will not be allowed to cross into Kashmir territory unless they have a permit from the Deputy Commissioner concerned

Application for the permit should be made one month in advance giving full address of all members and their stay in Ladakh Permission is not given to parties consisting of more than four persons nor to ladies travelling without male escort Gazetted officers and members of the Moravian Mission are exempted

(1) Travellers should apply the British Joint Commissioner, Ladakh, Srinagar, giving full particulars, when they want to enter from Kashmir side

### Ladakh Frontier Crossing Rules

(1) No one should travel North or South of the river Sindh in Ladakh without passports—either a British passport, travellers' or pilgrim's pass or any other travel documents issued by a British authority or Minister in charge of the Political Department, Wazir-i-Wazarat of Ladakh or Tehsildar of Skardu

(2) Persons without any travel document will be put back across the river whence he came Police,

Revenue officers and Magistrates are authorised to arrest such persons and will prosecute them under the Ranbir Penal Code and may fine up to Rs 500

### **Travellers to Chinese Turkestan**

Travellers proceeding to Chinese Turkestan by the Gilgit and Hunza route should know that—

(1) No stores, wines or spirits are available on the route (2) Transport arrangements should be made through transport contractors at Bandipur for Bandipur to Astor and through Political Agent, Gilgit from Astor onwards (3) Travellers will have to make their own arrangements for coolies if they cross Burzil pass between 15th Nov to 15th May (4) Sportsmen are not allowed to take Kashmiri Shikaris to Pamirs or Thian Shan unless permitted by Game Warden (5) Travellers are not allowed to take Kashmiri servants to Pamirs or Thian Shan unless they have deposited surety and have taken a permit from the Director, Visitors Bureau, Srinagar (6) Supplies are scanty on the Pamirs but milk and mutton are very good and, on plains, country provisions are plentiful (7) The mail reaches Kashgar from Kashmir in 25 days Telegrams may be sent by the telegraph address, "Consul-General, Britain, Kashgar"

### **Rules of Forest Rest Houses.**

The forest rest houses are for the gazetted officers of the forest department Visitors can use them after taking permission from the Divisional Forest officer concerned but they are to vacate them if any officer requires so In no case is a permit for more than five days stay given Except in a very few cases, no rent is charged The occupants are responsible for any loss done to furniture or building, etc Fires should be extinguished before retiring and vacating the rest house As no servants are kept at the rest house, occupants should keep and leave it clean Firewood can be collected from the forest but occupants are responsible for any damage done to the forest



## Rules of hunting in Kashmir.

(1) Sportsmen are requested not to shoot before sunrise and after sunset

(2) Sportsmen are advised to engage only registered shikaris

(3) No one is allowed to shoot in the State Game Reserves or Rakhs without special permission of His Highness the Maharaja. The Rakhs are those of Dachigam, Khanmoo, Khrew, Tral-cum-Kherim and Panyar, Khel basin in Avantipur tehsil, Anchar Lake (Peth Kundel to Sangam), Hokar Sar Jhil, Hygam Jhil in Kashmir Province and Ramnagar, Keran, Kheri, Bahu, Mansar (Tunnel), Mansar (Sagoon), Sansu, Tandeh, Nehranal, Kotli, Thanaa, Janganoo, Dalsar, Marh, Gurah, Badyal, Makwal and Agrachak in the Jammu Province

(4) No one is allowed to shoot in the nullahs mentioned here without permission from the Rajas concerned. The nullahs of Gandoos and Rumbak belong to the Raja of Khapallu, the Shigar, the Rondu and Kiris nullahs and portions of the Mantho and Satpur nullahs belong to the Rajas of Tolti and Skardu respectively. The Harcho nullah belongs to the Raja of Astor. Permission is necessary for shooting in the Poonch territory from the Raja of Poonch.

(5) No one is allowed to enter the Game Reserves without permission. Permission is however given for shooting to officials stationed at Srinagar, residents of Srinagar and to visitors in special cases. The game reserves are those of (1) Achhabal Rakh, (2) Ovra Rakh near Pahalgam, (3) Chhatargul nullah in Sind valley, (4) Dara area (5) The Nishat, Brain and Chashmashahi basin, (6) Wangat Rakh in Sind valley, (7) Khandi and Kharus Nullahs, in the Uri tehsil (8) The Pampur and adjoining hills of Kranchu cum Sondahar and Maenboog, (9) Mir Gund Jhil and (10) Kajnag and Kafir Kund areas including the Salkhala, the Moji and Shamashberry Rakhs. However, special permits are issued for these reserves by Game Warden for not more than three days in case of big game shooting

(6) No one is allowed to enter the Sanctuaries without permission. The Sanctuaries are those of (1) the Anas nullah and the in Bandipur district, (2) Kushmul and Yina basins in Baltistan (3) The Rajparin and Bewa basins in the Nowboog district (4) Soomjan and the Sapphire Mines nullah in Kishtwar (5) Askor nullah in Randu Baltistan, (6) the Old Rakh Chashmashahi, (7) Pond near Sri Gauri Shanker in Kishtwar (8) the Shankeracharya hill from Gargibal point up to and including the basin above Pandrethan.

(7) Barasingha in Ramban, serow in Bhadarwah and Cheetal, musk deer, females of barking deer, the goral, peacock, heron, nilkanth blue jay in Jammu province are prohibited to be shot as they are scarce in those localities.

(8) No one is allowed to shoot without a license.

(9) Rewards are given for killing vermin to license-holding sportsmen by Game Preservation Department. @ Rs 10 for leopards (now and common), Rs 5 for leopards (cub), Rs 10 for wolves, wild dogs, lynx; Rs four for carion crow and cormorant and other fish vermin. Also Rs 5 may be given for others doing damage on trout waters at the discretion of the Game Warden.

(10) Rewards are also given on skins of animals when brought in. Skins are returned to license-holders.

(11) Licenses should be returned on expiry of date. Sportsmen are requested not to kill more than the number of animals allowed.

(12) Sportsmen are requested not to give presents to the servants of the Game Preservation Department. Such persons are dismissed by the Department. Any act of disobedience on the part of servants should be reported.

(13) Rates of the wages of the First Class Shikaris are Rs. 30 to 35 per season ~~allowance~~ Rs 6/- to 8/- per month and those of C are Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 plus Rs. 5 ration.

(14) The wages of ~~other~~ ~~and~~

Rs 5 ration allowance, of camp permanent coolies,  
Rs 10 plus Rs 4 ration allowance

(15) The Shikaris licenses are not endorsed if they do not come to take their annual licenses to abide by the rules of the Game Preservation Deptt

(16) Sportsmen must report to the Game Warden all cases of serious injuries received by the Shikaris

(17) The shooting season for Kashmir stags is from 15th September to 15th March

(18) The season of chakor, partridges and pheasants is from 1st Oct to Feb., that for wild fowl (geese, duck, teal) from 16th September to 14th April and for snipe from 1st Sept. to 31st March. Rest months are breeding season in which shooting is prohibited

(19) The following dimensions have been fixed in case of big animals, under-sized animals are not to be killed and if such are killed, sportsmen are called to take license No 6 for each animal shot—markhor of any variety 45", Ibex 35", ovis ammon 38", sharpu 24", burhel 23", Tibetan antelope 22", Tibetan gazelle 10", Kashmir stag 35"

*Remarks.* These rules apply to Kashmir Province, the Astor Tehsil including the Bunji Niabat, Ladakh, Skardu, Kargil and Kishtwar Tehsil with the exceptions of all State Game Reserves (Rule 3), Nullahs belonging to the Rajas concerned (Rule 4). As well as there are special rules for (1) Astor district, (2) Kajrag and Kafirkund areas including the Moji and Shamashberry Rakhs and (3) the Ladakh district including Chang Chenmo

For detailed information please apply to the Game Warden, Srinagar for a free copy of "Jammu and Kashmir State Game Laws"

The offenders of these rules are liable to forfeiture of their licenses and even refusal to issue further license depending upon the discretion of the Game Warden

### Rules of fishing in Kashmir.

(1) Booking for all waters commences on the 2nd January

(2) All provisional bookings made during Jan Feb and March should be confirmed and paid for before 15th March and those made during 1st April to 30th September should be confirmed and paid for within 15 days for weekly waters and within 2 days for daily waters from date of booking otherwise they will be considered as cancelled

(3) No refund is made and license is non-transferable Subletting by private arrangement is forbidden The Game Warden will help in subletting but does not take any responsibility for the same

(4) The number of fish allowed on each water is fixed Natural baits and illegal baits are prohibited Artificial spinning baits are allowed in deep pools

(5) Recognised shikaries must be engaged for each beat according to the tickets issued to them Local shikaries should be engaged for the streams

(6) Anglers are required to attend personally at the office of the Game Warden to take "Permit" A fishing license is only valid if accompanied by a permit

(7) Anglers possessing coarse fishing license are requested to return trouts to the water otherwise they will be required to pay Rs. 5/- per day

(8) Anglers are requested to record details of fishing in each water with largest fish killed

(9) The following are the reserved waters in Kashmir —

(i) Lidar from Bhatkot to the junction with Jhelum, (ii) Sind river with the exception of portions defined as trout waters, (iii) Kishengaṅga at Gurais, (iv) Nullah Madmatī, (v) Pohru

including its tributaries of Lolab and Kamli streams, (vi) Veshau from one mile below the tehsil at Kulgam to its junction with the river, (vii) Asham water at Sumbal, (viii) Dalgate pool and the Channel from the Dalgate to Gagribal, (ix) Shadipur from the junction of the Sind to one and a half mile below Shadipur, (x) Baramulla from the bridge to one and a half mile below, (xi) Sumbal from the bridge to one and a half mile below, (xii) Ningle from boundary to the boundary pillar, (xiii) Nullah Bringhi in Anantnag tehsil below the Soaf village to its junction with the Jhelum, (xiv) Sopore from the bridge to one and a half mile below

(10) The weekly trout waters are those of Desu, Bringhi upper, Bringhi lower, Bringhi middle, Nowbug upper, Pahalgam Sheishnag, Pahalgam Aru, Sindh Woosan lower, Wangat upper, Chhatargul, Madmati, Erin, Kishenganga (Gurais,) Kishenganga (Bugtor), Vishan Sar and Krishn Sar lakes

(11) The daily trout waters are those of the Bringhi lowest, Nowbug lower, Kokarnag, Achhabal, Mahand, Pahalgam Lidar, Sindh Resin, Sindh Kulan, Sindh Sumbal, Sindh (Kangan upper), Sindh Prang (middle), Sindh lowest, Wangat lower, Ferozpur, Kothsu

(12) There are allowed fixed numbers of rods and number of fish to be killed on each beat vide item (10) and (11)

(13) The trout waters are often added or altered after a year, so it is advised to enquire the Game Warden

(14) Kishenganga excluding the portion from Charwan to Kanzalwan is reserved for course fishing.

(15) Trout fish are sold at Harwan and Achhabal hatcheries subject to the following Trout fish between 5 to 7 lb are sold @ Rs 3 per lb and over 7 lbs @ Re 1/8 per lb The rainbow

trout of over 3 lbs are sold @ Rs 3/- per lb and of 5 and over 5 lbs @ Rs 2 per lb No sale is permitted of any trout fish of 3 lbs and under Home delivery of the either from Harwan can be arranged through Game Warden, Srinagar who should be requested at least 8 hours before they are required

(16) Fishing before sunrise and after sunset is forbidden

For detailed information, please apply to the Game Warden, Srinagar—for a free copy of the list of Trout waters, which will give full information regarding number of fish to be killed, rods allowed and distances of beat from Srinagar

### **Mooring site Rules Outside Srinagar.**

- (1) The average length of a site is 50—60 yds
- (2) All sites are marked by posts and numbered
- (3) Site is reserved in the name of the owner of the boat and the tenant
- (4) The sites should be kept clean
- (5) Rents are payable in advance to the Director, Visitors' Bureau or a representative of theirs for collection
- (6) Rents are charged as thus—for 1 to 3 days, half weeks' rent, for 4 to 7 days, one weeks', for 8 to 15 days, two weeks', for 16 to 23 days, three weeks' and 24 to 30 days, full months' rent
- (7) A site temporarily vacated can be kept reserved if necessary notice is given 72 hours' before leaving the site and further fees are paid
- (8) Should a site be required for Govt. purposes, the site will have to be vacated and refund will be made provided no other site is occupied instead
- (9) Pilgrims to Khir Bhawan enroute are exempted from any fees
- (10) Sites can be exchanged with other sites within the limits of one locality Sites at Nasim Bagh can not be exchanged with Ganderbal
- (11) If any vacant site is the Visitors' Bureau should at once be inf.

### **Mooring site rules in Srinagar.**

Items No (1), (2), (4) (5), (6), and (11) are the same as on page 289 The site is reserved in the name of the owner of the boat only A site can be exchanged with another one after payment of the difference of the charges, but no refund is made when changing from higher to lower class No fee is charged if boats are compelled to shift to another site on account of water level being lowered

### **Mooring sites in Srinagar.**

**A Class Site—Rs 12 per month**

From Pestonjee's shop to Ram Munshi Bagh, (Right bank)

**B Class Site—Rs 8 per month**

(a) From High Court Ghat to Pestonjee's shop (Right bank), (b) Lal Mundi Ghats (left bank), (c) Upper corner of the Lal Mundi wood depot to a point opposite the Sonawar Bagh bridge (d) Club Nallah (both banks), (e) Chinar Bagh on Golf Links side

**C Class Site—Rs 6 per month**

Ram Munshi Bagh to quarry near Lasjan village, both banks Barbar Shah bridge to main river Dal Nala is exempted from any charges

### **Camping Site Rules**

(1) The Camping sites are usually numbered (2) Tents should be pitched on the Camping grounds (3) No shed for stables etc should be made (4) No earth should be dug (5) Should any one need to reoccupy the site once left, he can do so by giving 24 hour's notice to the Visitors Bureau along with payment in advance (6) The occupant should keep the site clean (7) Any person failing to abide these rules will be liable to pay -/4/- extra per day (8) Pilgrims to Amar Nath during pilgrimage session are exempted (9) The system of rent collection is the same as on page 289 (10) For sites outside Srinagar, one should apply Director, Visitors Bureau, Srinagar or their representative at the spot and for sites in Srinagar municipality one should apply the President,

Municipality, Srinagar stating the probable occupation of the site For sites, see page 34. There are also camping sites at Shadipur and charged @ Rs 6 per month

### Rents of Houseboats (Per Mensem)

Houseboats with 4 or more than 4 rooms, 2 bath rooms, a cook boat, a Shikara, a Chowkidar and at least 2 Male Crews—

A Class—Rs 160 B Class—Rs 125

Houseboats with 3 rooms, 2 bath rooms, a cook boat, a Shikara, a Chowkidar, at least one Male Crew—

A Class—Rs 110 B Class—Rs 90

Doonga houseboats with 4 or more rooms, 2 bath rooms, a cook boat, a Shikara, a Chowkidar, at least 2 Male Crews—

A Class—Rs 140 B Class—Rs 100

Doonga houseboats with 3 rooms, 2 bath rooms, a cook boat, a Shikara, a Chowkidar, at least one Male Crew—

A Class—Rs 90 B Class—Rs 40

Living Doongas with 4 rooms, 2 Male Crews at least—

A Class—Rs 50 B Class—Rs 40

Matted Doongas with 4 Crews (2 Males at least)—

A Class—Rs 45 B Class—Rs 35

Kitchen boat doongas (II Class) with 3 Crews—

Rs 20—and if only one Crew—Rs 15

Doonga (3rd Class) with 2 Crews (one Male at least)—

Rs 12

### Tonga Rates.

*Fixed by Srinagar Municipality*

I Class II Class.

First hour or a portion thereof 0 10 0 0 8 0

Subsequent hour or a portion thereof 0 6 0 0 4 0

Half day of 5 hours 2 0 0 1

Full day of 9 hours .. 3 8 0



**Tonga by Tripe**

	I Class	II Class
Gupkar and back	1 0 0	0 12 0
Chashma Shahi and back	1 12 0	1 8 0
Nishat Bagh and back	2 8 0	2 0 0
Shalamar and back	3 0 0	2 0 0
Harwan and back	3 8 0	3 0 0
For half for every half hour after the first two hours	0 2 0	0 1 0

**Shikara Rates***Fixed by Srinagar Municipality*

Shikara      Hanji (Boatman)

First 2 hrs or a portion thereof	0 3 0	0 4 6 each
Half day of 4 hrs or 2 to 4 hrs	0 3 0	0 6 0 "
Full " " 8 hrs " 4 " 8 hrs	0 6 0	0 12 0 "

**Shikara by Trips**

Gagribal and back	0 4 6 "
Nasim, Nishat, Shalamar or Nagin Baghs and back	0 6 0 0 12 0 "

For halts over 3 hours, half of the rates by hours are payable. If boats are not used in the return journey charges are the same.

**Transport Rates in Kashmir**

His Highness' Govt have appointed contractors for the supply of transport at various centres in the State such as at Ganderbal, Bandipur, Gura, Pahalgam, Gulmarg" etc. Visitors are informed that they should engage coolies and ponies through contractors (p 294). At many places such as Treaty High Road, Gilgit Road etc contractors have a right to take their usual commission from the coolies and pony-men. Rates of transport are different for different localities according to the nature of country and special conditions. All departments other than Supply and Transport Corps have been informed by the Govt to assist travellers for transport.



**Remarks** The summer is from 16th April to 15th November and winter is from 16th November to 15th April. The amount marked with asterisk is added to the usual rate and paid for on account of bad road, pass etc. The rates for crossing Zojila between 15th April and the date on which the pass is officially declared open will be Rs. 10 per pony and Rs. 5 per cooly provided the carriers are willing to travel. The contractor is entitled to have a commission @ nine pies per pony per stage and 6 as per pony and 4 as per cooly are charged for halts at any intermediate stage when transport is not arranged through the contractor.

Three days notice should ordinarily be given to the contractors for supply of transport along with half of the hire due and balance at destination.

### General Rates in Ladakh

Riding Pony	Rs	0	1	0	per mile
Pack Pony	"	0	0	9	per mile
Cooly	"	0	0	6	per mile

**Remarks.** The above are the rates for the journeys other than for Leh and Ladakh (High Treaty Road)

### Bandipur to Gurais and onwards

	Bandipur to Gurais	Chilas Road Via Machil	Gangabal Road Via Sumlar atwatoo	Plain Roads
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Luggage pony	1 0	1 4	1 2	0 14
Riding pony	1 4	1 8	1 6	1 2
Ordinary cooly	0 10	0 12	0 12	0 8
Dandy cooly	0 12	0 14	0 14	0 10
Hanji cooly	0 12			
Dandy empty	1 0			

**Remarks.** These rates are per stage and in case of Hanji cooly and dandy empty, the rates are per day. Over and above these rates the contractor

is authorised to charge a commission @  $6\frac{1}{4}\%$   
During winter season, 15th October to 31st May,  
the above rates will be increased by 50%

Contractors are authorised to arrange transport  
for their own territories *i.e.*, transport engaged at  
Bandipur should be changed at Gurais if journey is  
beyond Gurais

## LIDDAR VALLEY

## SIND VALLEY

	Rs			
Riding pony	1	1	6 per stage	See Rates on High Treaty
Pack pony	0	13	6 " "	Road, page 293
Coolie	0	6	6 " "	

KHANNABAL TO PAHALGAM TO AMARNATHJI  
PAHALGAM OR KOLAHOI

	Rs					Rs			
Riding pony	2	0	for 2 stage	Riding pony	1	4	0 per stage		
Pack pony	1	8	" " "	Pack pony	1	6	0 " "		
				Coolie	0	6	6 " "		

## TO GANGABAL

## GEN RATES IN KASHMIR

	Rs					Rs			
Riding pony	1	8	per stage	Riding pony	1	2	per stage		
Pack pony	1	4	" "	Pack pony	0	14	" "		
Cooly	0	10	" "	Cooly	0	7	" "		
Dandy cooly	0	12	" "	Dandy cooly	0	9	" "		
				Manji or mover					
				of the boat	1	0	per day		

*Remarks* Whereever transport rates are  
not fixed, visitor should settle themselves The  
general rates, given above, will also prove useful  
As a general rule, rates are a bit higher hilly tracts  
and lower for plain roads

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Abbreviations — G=Glacier; N=Nala or Nullah, P=Pass, Temple, V=Valley; also see contents p. iv.

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